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The Playground

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MARCH, 1926

Progress in Recreation for Colored Citizens

Recreation and the Individual

Oak Park, Illinois, Holds Brilliant Winter Carnival

Neighborhood Recreation Centers on the Pacific Coast

What Shall We Do on May Day?

The Boy Ranger Idea

VOLUME XIX. NO. 12

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No. 12

The Playground

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The World at Play	643
Among Local Leaders, M. Esthyr Fitzgerald.....	650
Handcraft in the St. Paul Playgrounds, by E. W. Johnson.....	650
Recreation for Colored Citizens, by Thomas F. Parker.....	651
Recreation for Colored Citizens as an Aid in Character Building, by G. Lake Imes.....	653
Recreation in Colored Communities, by E. T. Attwell.....	657
Recreation and the Individual, by John Brown, Jr.	659
A Carnival that Pioneered, by Josephine Blackstock.....	662
Neighborhood Recreation Centers, by Tam Deering.....	665
Adults Play in Omaha, by Edwin S. Jewell.....	668
For the Girls and Women of South Carolina, by Blanche Tarrant.....	669
Boyology—a New and All-Important Study.....	670
Recreation and the Labor Unions	671
What Do Boys and Girls Like?.....	672
A Notable Development for the Colored Citizens of Orangeburg, S. C.	672
Worcester Reports	672
Paddle Tennis	673
Rules for Pin Ball	673
What Is an Adequate Program for State Physical Education?	674
Character Building Values in Recreation Activities.....	675
Where the Arts Combine	675
The Story of One Small Community	676
May Day in the Schools and Playgrounds.....	677
Eight-to-Twelve Boys and the Boy Ranger Idea, by Edward F. Reimer.....	679
Mother Nature's Invitation, Conducted by William G. Vinal.....	681
Playgrounds Gaining in Beauty	682
The Question Box	684
At the Conventions	687
Magazines and Pamphlets of Interest to Recreation Workers.....	691
Our Folks	692
Book Reviews	693
Index to Volume XIX	694

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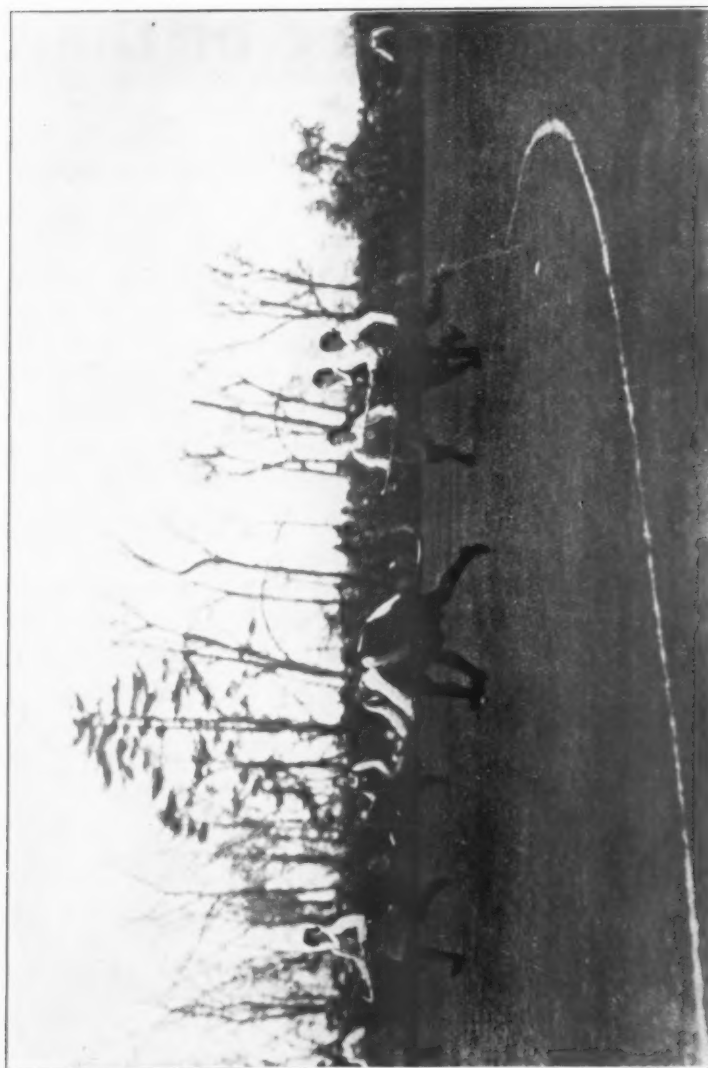
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The Playground

VOL. XIX, No. 12

MARCH, 1926

The World at Play

Memorial Playgrounds in Anoka, Minnesota.—On the death of George H. Goodrich, President of the Kiwanis Club, it was voted by the Club to purchase Block Two of the City of Anoka adjoining a block already owned by the municipality and to cooperate with the city officials in developing both blocks for playground purposes. As soon as plans have been worked out, the ground owned by the Kiwanis Club will be deeded to the City.

Greensboro, N. C., Receives Gift.—In Greensboro, N. C., about 300 acres of land, worth a quarter of a million dollars, have been donated by public spirited citizens for park and recreation purposes. A bond issue will be voted on in the fall to equip this land properly for the purpose for which it was given.

Thousands on K. of C. Playgrounds.—Five thousand (5000) children in Rome, Italy, will find healthy recreation on the playgrounds of San Lorenzo alone. The entire expense of the San Lorenzo playgrounds and the Gelsomino Hill ground is borne by the Knights of Columbus.

National Playingfields Association Reports Progress.—The plans of the National Playingfields Association of Great Britain for the organization of county branches are meeting with encouraging results. Although this program has been in operation only a few months, organization has been completed in one county, organization meetings have been definitely called in six counties, and eleven others are arranging for such meetings in the near future. It is expected that by the end of 1926 all county organizations will have been established and functioning.

The service of the National Playingfields Association of Great Britain and its county branches will be devoted primarily to land problems. In addition to the educational program for the securing of additional playingfields, the Association will

give service in connection with existing grounds to improve the layout and equipment, and to adapt them to more intensive use.

Our American Forests.—American Forest Week, under the auspices of the American Tree Association, will be held in April. To mark 1926, the semi-centennial of the first step in forestry in the United States Government, the Forestry Primer will be published, setting forth important statistics that show how great a part forest products play in our economic scheme. The Primer suggests means of utilizing so-called waste acreage near cities so that the community can set this land to work, planting trees, using it as a sanctuary for wild life, making of it a place for rest and recreation, and finally drawing upon it for a supply of wood for the common good.

The Association from its headquarters, 1214 Sixteenth Street, Northwest, Washington, will send a copy of the Primer to any organization and committee requesting it. A three-cent stamp to cover the cost of postage should accompany the request.

A New National Association.—A National Association for the study of the Platoon or Work-Study-Play School Organization has been organized for the purpose of making a scientific study of the problems of this form of organization and of gathering and disseminating data. Charles L. Spain, Deputy Superintendent of the Schools, Detroit, is president of the new organization; Miss Alice Barrows, of the U. S. Bureau of Education, secretary.

The First National Conference of the Association was held in Washington on February 22-23.

"May Day Is Every Child's Day."—The American Child Health Association urges the celebration of May Day as a day of stock-taking and encouragement to greater activity in the conservation of child life. May Day of 1926 is the

third of these celebrations. This year attention is to be focussed upon the perfect child physically. Every community is urged to examine its children, see what is needed to build up the bodies and set in motion some endeavor looking toward that goal.

First Annual Report.—The Recreation Commission of Bristol, Virginia, in issuing its first report, gives the figure \$.038 as the maintenance cost per person participating in the program.

Record Keeping at Owosso, Michigan.—An important piece of equipment at the Owosso Community Center is a board showing six pyramid style perpetual records of games. The name at the top of the pyramid is that of the champion and any competitor may challenge any other whose name appears on the row above his. By this method there is always competition for the championship without any necessity for all players being present.

New Facilities for Fort Worth.—The City of Fort Worth, Texas, recently allotted \$170,000 of a \$7,500,000 bond issue to be used for recreation purposes. Out of this it is planned to build two swimming pools at an approximate cost of \$40,000 each and a community center at a cost of \$50,000. The community center is to be used primarily for winter sports and will have a large basketball playing area of 70x111 feet, a stage at one end for concerts and dramatics and at the other end on one side of the entrance recreation office room; on the other side concession stands. Under the bleachers will be dressing rooms, shower rooms and similar facilities.

Pittsburgh's Appropriation Increased.—The City Council of Pittsburgh has granted to the Bureau of Recreation an increase in the appropriation for 1926 of approximately \$75,000, creating thirty-nine new positions, and making possible the most liberal provision for supplies, equipment and repairs which the Bureau has had in years.

Attractive Report from Union County Park Commissioners.—The Union County Park Commission of New Jersey has recently issued a report for 1923-24-25. The parks are notable for their beauty and the report, with its lovely illustrations of park facilities and park views, is most

attractive. Much valuable information is given regarding the work of the Park Commission, whose personnel has remained unchanged since its appointment in 1921, the acquisition of park lands and the facilities in the various reservations. The county park system includes the Watchung Reservation, Rahway River Parkway, Warinanco Park, Elizabeth and Roselle, Cedar Brook Park, Plainfield, Echo Lake Park, John Russell Wheeler Park, Linden, and Elizabeth River Park.

An Unusual Annual Report.—The Annual Report of the Milwaukee Amateur Athletic Association conducted by the Extension Department of the Milwaukee Public Schools, with the cooperation of the Park Commissioners and the Department of Public Works, is an unusually interesting document. The book is made up entirely of mimeographed sheets in cardboard covers, the report on each sport being featured by a different colored cardboard bearing an appropriate design which is also mimeographed. Aquatics, Baseball, Basket Ball, Football, Horseshoes, Indoor Baseball, Skating, Soccer, and Track and Field are the sports on which detailed information is given. Under each sport are classifications, official records and standings, events, attendance, and information of various kinds of great interest to members of the Association. A "Do You Know That" page appearing in connection with a number of the sports is an interesting and intriguing addition to the report.

Recreation Makes Progress in Santa Monica.—In January Santa Monica, California, with a population of 30,000, voted bonds of \$75,000 for the purchase of Clover Field for a recreation park and air port. This, the friends of recreation in the city state, is only the beginning and an effort will be made to acquire a large amount of beach frontage now privately owned.

During the past year Santa Monica secured a gift of \$25,000 for a recreation building; the City established three playgrounds and the School Board operated ten after-school playgrounds and two evening centers. In addition five year-round playgrounds are being operated by Community Service. On January 1st, Robert Munsey became year-round Superintendent of Recreation.

In One City in Florida.—Though the public recreation system has been in operation in Sarasota, Florida, only since November 6th, 1925, it

has made an important place for itself. One of the most remarkable developments has been along the line of tennis tournaments for boys, girls, men and women. Interest in basketball, checkers and horseshoe has assumed large proportions and handcraft, drama and ukulele classes are flourishing. An extensive service is carried on for tourists.

D. B. Wright is Superintendent of Recreation under the Department of Public Recreation.

Another Year-Round City.—Bartow, Florida, with a population estimated at 8,500, has been added to the list of cities conducting year-round recreation systems. As the County seat, and the center of rural population and of the phosphate mines, Bartow occupies a strategic position. A Board of Public Recreation has been appointed and Dean K. Gardener employed as Superintendent of Recreation.

A Proposed Plan for Detroit.—A play center in every square mile of the city is the objective of a playground program recently presented to the Council of the City by C. E. Brewer, Recreation Commissioner. Each of the forty-three public playgrounds proposed would be from fifteen to thirty acres in area and developed with schools, picnic groves, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, football fields and playground ball courts. In winter skating rinks would be provided. Development of the entire program of forty-three new play fields and three or more new parks would follow over a number of years, ten new recreation centers being in the commissioners' budget for 1926-27. The new program would more than double the number and area of the present thirty-five independent playgrounds with an area of 229 acres and sixty school playgrounds.

Captain Henry W. Busch, Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Boulevards, is planning for the coming year's budget to request money for building two new 18-hole golf courses—a minimum of \$1500 per hole is the estimated cost of construction.

Playgrounds and Accidents.—John A. Egan, President of the Board of Recreation of Paterson, New Jersey, in his annual report to the citizens of Paterson, tells of a study of accidents in that city for a ten months' period in 1925. The study shows a total of 616 accidents.

"In spite of the fact," says Mr. Egan, "that children have more time to themselves during the

summer, because of vacation and of daylight-saving, we have had fewer accidents during July and August when our playgrounds are open full time than in any other months." Another interesting fact is that most of the accidents occur in clear weather and in the day time. Moral: Buy playgrounds—Keep children off the streets—Prevent accidents!"

In 1925 Paterson appropriated \$45,750 for the purchase of three plots of ground for playgrounds. The purchase of ten other properties has been recommended by the Board of Recreation.

At Lions' Field, San Antonio.—Lions' Field, the playground donated to the City of San Antonio by the Lions' Club and conducted under the leadership of R. C. Oliver, Supervisor of Children's Playgrounds, has made a report for the period September 14, 1925 to January 1, 1926, which shows an active program. In addition to football, regulation baseball and indoor baseball and volley ball, there have been story hours once a week, folk dancing, pet shows, ping-pong tournaments, coaster contests and similar activities. Shelves for the library balcony have been donated by the Lions' Club, and a branch of the Carnegie library will soon be in operation.

Open House Week at the Irene Kaufman Settlement.—Open house week at the Irene Kaufman Settlement in celebration of its thirty-first anniversary was a notable occasion. A ten-day program marked the celebration, which opened with a presentation of two of Stuart Walker's plays by members of the girls' clubs. At the same time the young boys held a gymnasium stunt night. The neighborhood art school exhibit, which continued during the period of the celebration, was a revelation of beautiful handcraft. Athletic trophy and gymnasium stunt night for the older boys and productions by the Little Theater of the section were among other special events. The annual neighborhood reception and tea was particularly enjoyable this year with its program of Yiddish folk songs and Russian, Rumanian, Polish and Hungarian folk dances. The outstanding event of the week was the presentation of the Irene Kaufman Settlement *Chauve Souris* as the Founder's Day entertainment. In this colorful production were introduced drama, dancing and music.

A Report of Dramatic Work Accomplished.—The Children's Theater of Greenwich House,

New York, recently presented two plays. The first, *The Real Princess*, was based on an old story which the children themselves had dramatized and for which they had worked out the costumes. The staging was done under the direction of older leaders. The second play, *The Madonna of Light*, was also the work of the children themselves.

The junior orchestra and other groups from the music school of the settlement gave a program and an exhibit of pottery, and other handcraft was on view. The program was in the nature of an exhibit of the children's art work at Greenwich House and enabled the friends of both art and the children to see the creation of interest and technical skill in process.

A Contest in Negro Spirituals.—A contest in the singing of negro spirituals by the colored children of three playgrounds was one of the most interesting events in the December recreation program of Columbus, Georgia. Each playground was represented by fifty children, all under seventeen years of age. Each group sang four selections. The singing was unusually beautiful and gave promise for the future development of a large chorus.

Flag and Field Day in Columbus, Ohio.—Once each year the huge Ohio stadium at Columbus is turned over to the Physical Education Departments of the schools for Flag and Field Day. The presence of 15,000 spectators at the 1925 celebration did not lessen the solemnity and beauty of the children's open salute to the American Flag nor the joy of their participation in the games, drills and folk dances.

Following the flag raising ceremonies came a game of playground cage ball, Mimetic Exercises, "Forward Pass," Neapolitan Tarantelle, Mass Pyramids, Gymnastic Dance, Figure Marching and "Dance of Autumn."

The music was furnished by nineteen school bands and the American Legion Band. While the program was under the direction of the Physical Education Department, a number of the school departments had a share in it. The posters were made by the Art Department; the decorations by the Manual Training Department, and the business arrangements by a Committee of Principals. Thirty-six hundred pupils took part in 1925.

Champion Fiddler—A Connecticut Yankee.—Fiddling to determine the champion fiddler is

a new sport which has recently taken up much interest among a number of men of sixty years of age and upwards in the New England states. This fiddlers' contest was sponsored by the Town Criers, a Providence, R. I., business men's organization, and old-time fiddlers up to the age of 78 partook in the contest held at the Albee Theater in Providence. "Joe" Shippee, aged 69, of Plainfield, Conn., was the winner. He was bashful at the start but, as he played reel after reel and jig after jig, his confidence came back and at all times his music showed merit. James Gaffney, 71 years old, of Providence, was a close second. Each man was required to play all four numbers of a quadrille and two pieces of his own selection.

A New Children's Theatre.—With the idea of filling recreation needs, the Board of the Los Angeles Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations conceived the idea of having groups of associations sponsor whatever recreation was most needed in their various localities. In the Wilshire and Hollywood section the associations are sponsoring a Children's Theatre. The actors are senior students in the Cumnock School of Expression, the instructor being Cora Mel Patten. Each school sends a certain number of pupils to the performance, and the associations are each contributing the necessary expense. The opening performances took place on Friday and Saturday afternoons, November 6 and 7, with an admission fee of 25c. A few musical numbers and two plays by Stuart Walker, *Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil* and *Sir David Wears a Crown*, made up the program. Costumes were made by members of the Parent-Teacher Federation. The next production for the Children's Theatre, scheduled for December 9 and 12, was an adaptation of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

A Marionette Theatre.—Renio Bufano, who has long dreamed of a permanent marionette theatre for New York City children, has begun a series of Saturday matinees at Joseph Lawren's Studio Theatre, 51 West Twelfth Street. Four groups of plays will be given, each group for three successive Saturdays. *The Three Bears*, *The Frog Prince*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and the *Tragedy of Mr. Punch* are among the offerings.

A Christmas Treasure Hunt.—During the Christmas vacation, A. N. Morris, Recreation Director, Sioux City, Iowa, provided for the chil-

dren of the city an interesting activity in the form of a treasure hunt. Directions for locating the treasure chest, which contained a number of articles, were published in code in a local paper. The treasure hunt started immediately upon the publication of the code. Armed with the code, hundreds of children enjoyed a holiday frolic roaming through the city and over the hills. The code when deciphered read as follows:

"Begin at the lone poplar tree marked by three stakes and a rock on the bluff above the skating rink at Gilman Park. Sight over the top of the telephone pole near the foot of the hill on Nineteenth Street, and on across the valley. Follow this line until you come to a hedge fence. Now go southwest about a block to the large cottonwood tree. Walk east to a fire hydrant, and on across the street. Ask at the nearest house for a new code."

When the children who had worked out the code thus far arrived at the home of Mr. Morris, they were given a new code which when solved read as follows:

"Go to the back door and follow the winding path 57 steps to the new house. Go into the back bedroom and in a closet in the wall you will find the treasure box."

A Novel Treasure Hunt.—The Lions' Club of Newburgh, N. Y., raised funds for their play park through a treasure hunt, which proved to be an afternoon of play and adventure for the whole city. To start the fun, there was a rule that no one could come to the hunt on foot or in a motor vehicle. So they came on horseback, on kiddie cars and scooters and propelling bicycles of all kinds, including tandems and triplets and an old-fashioned "high wheeler." Long neglected hacks and carryalls and victorias were unearthed and enough horses to draw them were somehow found.

More than 400 entered the hunt, lining up in front of the City Hall for the start. Several hunting grounds had been selected and were visited in turn. The first prize, an order for \$100 in gold, was found by a twelve-year-old boy.

Many Demands Made on Community Wardrobe.—The Community Wardrobe established in Pasadena, California, by Playground Community Service, has long since proved its usefulness. Schools, churches, playgrounds, day nurseries and other organizations are constant clients. All kinds of costumes are available—medieval, pilgrim, Biblical, Indian, Santa Claus, animal, national and

fancy dress—and all are in demand. At present, in order that it may better serve its growing needs, the Community Wardrobe is asking through the local press for more donations of properties and costumes to increase and replenish its stock.

Taking the Movies to Them.—The Passaic, New Jersey, Recreation Department has a moving picture machine, which during the spring months is operated for the benefit of the children of the city in Recreation Hall, formerly the Police Station, and during the summer in one of the parks. Several times a year the machine is packed into a car and taken to the Orphan Home, where the children, for an hour and a half, enjoy a program of moving pictures.

Aid to National Music.—A noteworthy example of what an individual can do in supplementing a public service, not by establishing an outside private agency, but by giving funds directly to the Government for uses to which appropriations cannot be made, has been furnished by Mrs. Frederic Shurtleff Coolidge, of Chicago. She has provided a sum of nearly \$100,000 for an auditorium in connection with the Library of Congress suitable for chamber music and available for other purposes. This gift is added to by a trust fund estimated to yield a net annual income of \$28,200, to be paid over to the Librarian of Congress to aid the Music Division in the development of the study, composition and appreciation of music. The work is to be done through periodic festivals, the giving of concerts, "defraying all the expenses connected therewith" and the granting of prizes for original compositions or those performed for the first time at any festival or concert given under the auspices of the Library of Congress.

Congress has created a "Library of Congress Trust Fund Board" for the receipt and administration of such gifts.

Cambridge Is Tobogganing.—Cambridge, Mass., is experiencing the thrills of its first municipal toboggan slide. Whole families flock at night to the place where high-powered flood lights make it seem like day, in order to go whizzing down the 328-foot incline. Children are not allowed on the toboggan slide unless accompanied by adults. Hundreds of men, women and children have made use of the slide, which was built in December, and the Park Department pronounces it a complete success.

All Ready for the Snow.—A large group of Provo, Utah, boys, under the leadership of Dell Webb, Director of Recreation, cleared Giles Hill, just east of the city, of logs, brush and debris and smoothed it for several hundred yards. It made an ideal coasting place for the children of the city. Beginning high up on the mountain side, the course extends out in the field far below, where fences have been removed to allow a wide gap, giving ample space for several sleighs to pass along the course at once.

Among the civic organizations of the city giving the movement their backing is the Kiwanis Club, which appropriated \$50 for the work. The coasting program included huge bonfires built for the comfort of the coasters.

Reading with a Purpose.—Seventeen new subjects for reading courses in the *Reading With a Purpose* series are approved for publication by the Editorial Committee of the American Library Association. The new subjects are: Citizenship, Recent United States History, Architecture (appreciation), The World's Religions, Contemporary European History, The Modern Drama, Modern Trends in Education, Geography, The Human Body and Its Care, History in Fiction, Mental Hygiene, Modern Essays, Painting (appreciation), Recent English and American Poetry, Sculpture (appreciation), Six Immigrants, International Relations.

The *Reading With a Purpose* series of courses have been appearing one a month since last June. Each is by an authority who knows how to present his subject attractively; each is a booklet including a brief introduction to the subject and a list of about six or eight books for the average reader. Many libraries are using the courses in their adult education service.

The Perambulating Book Bus.—Library training, general culture and a knowledge of the internal workings of a car are the qualifications necessary to the driver of the "perambulating book bus," according to Francis Collins in an article, "When Libraries Take to the Open Road," in *The New York Times* of January 10. The idea of the automobile library is only two years old, and yet today practically every state owns one, and hundreds of readers in remote farms, ranches and mining camps look forward with great anticipation to its visit.

One naturally wonders what the people demand

in the way of literature, and the answer is amazing. One librarian tells of a farm woman who, during one winter, read eighty books aloud to her husband by the light of a lantern in the barn where he was milking. These included Huneker's *Steeplejack*, Tridon's *Psychoanalysis*, and Pierce's *Our Unconscious Mind*. A mining camp on one occasion, asked for *Bolshevism* by Spargo, *Whistle Signals for the Craneman*, *Tess of the D'Urbevilles* and a Serbian-English primer.

The library itself is most attractive, with its well-ordered book shelves arranged behind glass doors, which can be thrown open for the benefit of the many villagers at the postoffices or cross roads where the bus stops on schedule.

The driver of such a bus must have physical endurance as well as all the other qualifications, for sometimes the library travels one hundred miles a day, though the average is lower, and all kinds of weather and bad roads are encountered in these trips.

Religion and Art.—From different sources word comes of the increasing extent to which local churches are making use of the drama in connection with special services. Church orchestras and church musical clubs are giving opportunity for young people who have been trained in public schools to carry over such training and utilize it in a way that helps the church and the community as well as themselves. A recent church calendar from a midwestern city devotes considerable space to an art exhibit in the city and urges the members of the church to visit the exhibit as a means of building up their spiritual life.

Forum for Gardner, Mass.—Gardner, Mass., has started a Forum which is proving very successful. A community committee which has been appointed by the Chamber of Commerce arranges the programs and the Ministerial Union, which has endorsed them, encourages attendance. The subject of the first meeting was *The World Sweep of Democracy*, and of the second *Organization for World Peace*. The program sheet handed out at the meetings contains the words of a number of songs and a space at the bottom for questions with the following instruction: "Write Your Question and Tear Off," thus making it easier for the listener to enter the discussion. There is much enthusiasm over the success of these first meetings of the Forum.

A Recreation Bureau Conducts Occupational Therapy.—A beginning has been made by the Bureau of Recreation in Knoxville for a program of occupational therapy for convalescent patients at Beverly Hills. The first activities consisted of papercraft, such as paper figure cut-outs, flowers and paper rope basket weaving. This was followed by the art-fiber-cord sandwich trays, and later various forms of basketry and furniture making will be introduced. A very lively interest has been shown by the patients—an interest which has outrun the materials available. It is hoped that the completed products can be placed on sale at a spring bazaar in order to realize funds for the purchase of materials.

A New Development in Westchester County.—Organized under the auspices of the County Recreation Commission, Westchester County, New York, now has a County Athletic Association under the leadership of Frank S. Marsh.

One of the first tasks of the Association has been the listing and publishing of the best skating places throughout the County. The Association has also been instrumental in forming a County Board of Approved Basketball Officials through which local groups may secure the services of experienced officials.

The Basketball Season Opens in Shreveport.—A full-page advertisement in the Shreveport, La., *Journal* heralded the opening of the Third Municipal Basketball Season of that city on the evening of January 4th in the Coliseum. There were three opening night games and there will be three games every night except Sunday hereafter. Sixteen teams are registered in the three Leagues in the Municipal Association, six of them being girls' teams. The very effective advertising, which brought forth the largest crowd ever assembled in Shreveport to watch a basketball game and admission fees amounting to over \$100, was made possible through the cooperation of eleven local firms.

The 1926 Boys' Basketball Tournament.—From January 25th to March 15th the Boy Council of Philadelphia conducts its annual basketball tournament to determine the city championship. Any group of boys representing a school, church, club or the neighborhood gang is permitted to join a team and enter the tournament. No boy who has reached the age of 16 years on March 15,

1926, is allowed to play on the team. The groups are classified as follows:

Juniors—Teams having players whose individual weight is 105 pounds or under

Intermediates—Teams having players whose individual weight is over 105 pounds and not over 120 pounds

Seniors—Teams having players whose individual weight is over 120 pounds

Each team is required to provide an official basketball and an efficient adult referee acting alternately as referee and umpire for one half each. The 1925-26 official basketball rules govern all games with the exception that games consist of 6-minute quarters, with 2-minute intermissions between quarters, and 10 minutes between halves. The Philadelphia Approved Board of Basketball officials has assigned two of their best officials to officiate at the championship game on March 15th and will furnish a new official basketball for each group in the championship game.

A trophy emblematic of city championship will be awarded the winning team in each group and gold basketballs will be given the players in the teams playing in the final game.

Golfing Indoors.—A nine-hole golf course on the stage of the auditorium is one of the novel features of the Community Center program of Owosso, Michigan. The length of put shots varies from six to eighteen feet. An artificial lake has been placed at the ninth hole so that it is necessary to loft the ball from the cocoa mat over the lake on to the fairway which is twelve feet from the lake to the hole. Bunker mats of green canvas have been placed at the end of each fairway and small trees, discarded after a Christmas dance, have been placed in candy pails costing five cents each and painted with inexpensive paint. These trees help give the course a natural appearance. A heavy nap carpet has been used, which retards the ball about as much as a good grass green. A driving tent enables players to practise driving as well as putting.

A Training Course in Knoxville, Tennessee.—The Bureau of Recreation of Knoxville, in cooperation with the Community Service Council, conducted in October, November and December a recreation training school with a faculty from the University of Tennessee and with teachers and leaders in specialized lines. Meetings were held once a week for eight weeks. A registration

fee of \$1.00 was charged to cover the cost of bulletins, printed matter and materials used in the handcraft courses. Arrangements have been perfected in the University Department of Sociology whereby students in that department are given credit as follows: ten hours for the completion of work done in the training class and an additional credit for field service in the ratio of two hours' credit for three hours' service. Assignments are made from the office of the Bureau of Recreation, of which H. G. Rogers is superintendent, and the record of work and assignments is filed each month with the head of the Sociology Department.

A Training Course for Girl Leaders.—From January 14th to February 25th, 1926, the Reading, Pennsylvania, Municipal Board of Recreation conducted a weekly training course for girl leaders, with the purpose of providing local team age girl leaders with up-to-date attractive program material for girls' clubs. The membership of the course was split up into small groups to promote intimate discussions and to illustrate the value of sub-group operations and competitions. Each sub-group was headed by an elected leader and each member was given at least one period of prepared leadership responsibility. The activities included games, stunts, story telling, folk dancing, music, spontaneous dramatics, handcraft, campcraft and first aid, with active participation of leadership by those taking part in the course.

A Recreation Training Course.—So great was the success of the Recreation Institute and Training School conducted last year at the University of Omaha under the Department of Sociology that another institute will be held the last two weeks in June, 1926. Further information may be secured from T. Earl Sullenger, Head of Department of Sociology and Director of School of Social Service, University of Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.

A New Day in Apartment Building.—In connection with the dwellings known as the Harlem Group, 211 West 146th and 210 West 147th Street, New York City, erected in 1917, housing 216 families, there is an equipped park playground which is a part of the dwelling. More and more real estate developments are taking into consideration the desire on the part of fathers and mothers that their children shall have opportunity for active outdoor play and the sight of free open space.



M. ESTHYR FITZGERALD

Miss Fitzgerald, who has been serving as Superintendent of the Department of Recreation in Utica, New York, since December 1922, graduated from Dr. Arnold's Normal School of Gymnastics in New Haven in 1919. She immediately began work with the newly organized Department of Recreation at Utica, serving in turn as General Assistant and Assistant Superintendent before becoming head of the Department.

Hand Craft in the St. Paul Playgrounds

By

E. W. JOHNSON,

Superintendent of Playgrounds

Last June Mr. J. R. Batchelor, Field Representative of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, conducted an institute in St. Paul at the request of the officials of the Recreation Department. This institute was for the benefit of the leaders in the summer playgrounds program and the entire staff was given a day for their individual benefit. Through the instruction of Mr. Batchelor, sand craft, hand craft and various other forms of industrial work were taught.

The directors were inspired and benefited and went back to their individual playgrounds to produce wonderful exhibits of this handiwork.

Recreation for Colored Citizens*

By

THOMAS F. PARKER,

Greenville, South Carolina

Robert Lassiter, Chairman: The problem of recreation for colored people is no longer sectional, no longer applies alone to the South and to some of the big cities in the East and West. It is nation-wide, applying with equal force to Sacramento, California, Selma, Alabama, and Saginaw, Michigan.

The class of colored people going into northern communities is just as good as those left in our communities. The North is not getting what some enemies of the movement seem to want you to believe—the criminal element of the negro population. It is getting the best they have—lawyers, doctors, preachers and teachers. The problem whether they make good citizens in the new community lies with the community. With proper attention to recreation facilities, they will make you good citizens. Improper attention to that, and neglect and abuse of it, will make a criminal population.

Of course, the recreation movement as applied to the colored citizens, I know is in its infancy in the North. It is a comparatively new problem. It is an old problem with us in the South. We are meeting it fairly and squarely and are succeeding in our efforts towards giving our negro population what they should have.

I have the pleasure of introducing to you a prominent citizen of a sister State, President of the Phyllis Wheatley Association, maintaining a recreation center in Greenville. Mr. Thomas F. Parker, of Greenville, South Carolina.

Mr. Parker: First of all, I want to thank the Playground and Recreation Association of America—because had it not been for their work in the Camp at Greenville at the time of the war, and their subsequent worker who came there to organize the white playgrounds a few years later, and Professor Attwell, Field Secretary, and a number of other experts whom they, at their expense, have sent down to help us, I doubt if we should have the Phyllis Wheatley organization today. And I think it is only right that I should say in that connection that were it not for the inspiration and the consecrated work of the present colored superintendent of that organization, Mrs. Hattie Duckett, we probably should not have had that organization.

Since the war, the race question has received much more attention than before that time. Among other things, some communities have had it forcibly drawn to their attention in considering what they shall do with the colored people who are arriving, and other communities are wondering how they shall stop the colored people from migrating.

I am not a preacher, and I am not a teacher, and I am not an educator, and I am not one of you elect. I am simply a business man. Now, in Greenville, the business men took no interest in this question until the migration began two or three years ago. Throughout the South at this time a great deal of interest is being taken in the race question by colleges and universities, among the citizens, and also among the women of our churches. But in Greenville, business men took no active interest until they commenced to feel the pinch of migration. And then the Chamber of Commerce formed an inter-racial committee of its prominent citizens. Those citizens very quickly realized that, as business men, they knew very little about the conditions under which the 20,000 negroes in Greenville City and county were living. There have been a great many developments in the last 20 or 40 or 60 years which have to be reckoned with. There was no person and no organization in our community who was keeping up with these developments. We knew very little about the negroes, except that we employed them.

About the same time, the community fund raised approximately \$85,000 annually for about twelve organizations. They became interested and decided, for the first time, to make a contribution toward negro community work on two conditions: one, that the negroes should raise as much or more than they gave, and the other that they should be under the guidance of white leaders. The reason for that last condition was this: in our community, the negroes have had very limited business experience, and the business men who were ready to assist them felt that they could not get the moral or financial support of the community unless the community realized that the finances were going to be carefully followed and that the whole thing was going to be in careful and competent leadership.

I am trying just to indicate very briefly what happened there in this community as an indication of what, in a way, has been happening in a great many other communities of the South.

*Address given at the Twelfth Recreation Congress, held at Asheville, October 5-10, 1925.

When things had gone as far as that, certain business men said: "This is a big question; this is an important matter; this is something new. It involves not only the interest of the negro race, but the white race as well." Now, the negroes, in the past, in this community have had no place where they could meet, even if money were provided for running expenses. They had only their churches and fraternal order buildings. Where could they meet? And so those few men got together and said, "We will provide that building." They raised \$70,000. They gave \$50,000 conditionally, and they loaned \$20,000 conditionally. That building was immediately put up and is the center in which the work is being conducted.

The colored people must raise, in the course of ten years, \$20,000, without interest—\$2,000 a year; and also at the same time they must raise at least \$2,500 per annum for maintenance. When things got that far, the community fund increased the amount they gave, and said they would pay \$2,500 a year on condition that the negroes would raise as much or more. And then the public library—we have a public library in Greenville of which the negroes have had a small branch—came to the front with an offer of help. Private citizens added to it and they raised a combined sum of \$2,500 for the negro branch library to be located at the Center.

So, roughly speaking, there is a building which cost \$70,000, and there is provided, including the library, a budget of \$7,500 per annum. That building opened last January, and since then there have been during the winter months, about 8,000 contacts, and during the summer months, when the people were away, about 4,000. In other words, since January there have been 50,000 counted contacts.

They have every kind of class there; about five or six salaried workers—regular workers, teachers of schools—and they conduct a great many classes. We expect this year to have an enrollment of about 500 women and girls in those classes, and about the same number of men. The business men who are back of this have been very much encouraged by the results. We expected to have some unfavorable comments. We realized that we had as much work to do with the white population as we did with the colored population. We were attempting something new—we were pioneers—and we expected that there would be protest. But that has not been our experience. I am Chairman of the Board, Pres-

ident of the Association. I have had no criticism. Nobody has come to me and said how much better it would be not to do this, or, "You have made a mistake and will wish you hadn't done it." We have received nothing but kindness and sympathy from the white population.

In addition to that, all of the employed workers of the city are giving their whole-hearted support to the Association. On the part of the colored people, this was all new to them. You can't realize how little they have had. It would be hard for you to realize that they have no organized bodies at work helping them. They had had their preachers, their teachers and secret orders, and with the exception possibly of one state home demonstration, they had had very little else. This is very different for them. They did not really know what it was about; they had to learn. And yet they were asked to raise this year \$5,000—\$2,000 on the debt, \$2,500 current expenses, and \$500 on an old debt. They have raised over \$4,000 on that and we have every reason to feel that they are going to raise their \$5,000 the first year. If they do it the first year, we have every reason to believe they will continue.

I think that gives you the general idea of what we are attempting; and as I know many of you come from other sections of the country, I want to leave with you the thought that there is a great deal of this sort of work going on in the South. It is being done in schools, by churches, and through playground and recreation centers. The leaven is working—the old order passing. Great changes are taking place. These are radical changes, and I believe they are changes that augur great good, not only for negro, but for white citizens; for some of us can not see why the 20,000 negroes in our county, poorly educated, with no opportunities, could be as valuable to a community as negroes who have education and training and opportunity.

A Happy Thought

The beaded bags, toys, dolls and various other articles made by the children on the Johnstown, Pa., City playgrounds and exhibited at the Cambria County Fair and later at the National Recreation Congress at Asheville, N. C., have been shipped by the Junior American Red Cross to the Junior European Red Cross that they may be distributed among needy children in Europe.

Recreation for Colored Citizens as an Aid in Character Building

By

DR. G. LAKE IMES

Dean of the Bible Training School of Tuskegee Institute

My friends, I stand here this afternoon as a representative of the boys and girls who have just been singing for you, and to represent that larger group whom they represent—at least one-tenth of our American citizenship. I would not be here, would not dare to stand here myself were it not for the fact that as qualifications for talking about recreation I have three dead teeth, a broken nose and sundry wounds from the top of my head to the soles of my feet, gathered from successive efforts to play; and then a sort of incurable habit of mixing up in things that most people count light and silly, so that at Tuskegee Institute they wonder very much whether I am fit to be Dean of the Bible Training School! I have just had my racket restrung. I have just been trying for a week to organize a trio of piano, cello and violin. I dabble in theatricals; and lastly I have been playing the role of impresario at Tuskegee, handling our entertainments and moving pictures. So that the discussion has become more serious as to whether I am a fit person to be dean of the Bible Training School—I do so many things besides that, and, apparently, do so little at that. But the conviction I have is that the most serious part of a man's life is that part of it when he is free to do what he wants to do.

We have very little trouble with men and women—almost no trouble with black people—while they are working. Black people do not strike, ever. Whether conditions are hard or easy, they go on and work. The Negro worked in bondage, patiently, diligently; and, for all that has been said about him, this country has never yet been willing to get rid of him. And when he came to be a free man, he kept on working. And it is a happy thrill to me, as well as to all my people in the gallery, to hear a Southern white man testify that they want to keep the Negro here in the South, that he is a valuable adjunct to the South and more profitable to the South in the degree to which you give him education and training and make him capable of leadership.

But back to the recreation business. You don't have to teach the Negro to play. He played when he was a slave. He has brought out of slavery no rancor, no bitterness, no hatreds. There are between white and black in the South cherished memories of good times in slavery. Those songs to which you have just listened came out of slavery. Some of them were made since slavery, but they don't have the quality they had when they were born out of bondage. He played as a slave; he plays still. If you have ever stood on the banks of the Mississippi, if you have ever been down to New Orleans and watched a gang of stevedores chanting their songs as they swing along, you know they do a man's work while they are playing.

If you have ever been in Richmond, Virginia, standing outside the walls of a tobacco factory, you have heard the Negroes singing while they work. They transform work into play, and they enjoy it. Have you ever seen a gang of section hands on a railroad—black ones—swinging their picks and singing as their picks swing in rhythm to the song? It is fun! But he doesn't stop there. Not only in work does the Negro find a chance to play. That habit of his of playing is not understood by everybody. Up in Ohio, just after the war, when they took Negroes up to work in factories, an incident of this kind occurred.

They had taken Negroes into a mill to replace foreign labor. They hadn't been there long until the manager began to have trouble, and one morning he reported to the president that he came in to recommend they get rid of all Negroes. They played, they sang, they cut monkeyshines, and you couldn't get them down to work. Well, that was rather serious and it perturbed the president, because it was their last recourse to get labor. He said, "Go back and check the thing up for a couple of weeks and find out where they fall down and come back and we will see what can be done to correct it." He did so. At the end of two or three weeks he came back. What had he found?

"Well," he said, "there is something wrong there. I don't understand it." "What is it?" "I checked it up, as you told me, and the fact is they have produced seventy-five percent more stuff than had ever been done before." And all the while they kept up their singing and playing and joking and cutting monkeyshines!

As a matter of fact, if you stop the Negro from playing and from singing, he won't be happy. But it goes beyond his work. The Negro is the one man in the world, I think, who gets joy out of his religion. To most folks religion—and particularly this Christian religion—is a burden and a weariness. It is really not religion until you weep—until you mourn. The Negro, he does weep and he does mourn, when he is getting his religion, but after that it is all shouting.

I mean to say by all of this just this: that the play instinct, the impulse to play, is entirely a normal thing in the Negro—I am tempted to say, the dominant thing in him. Look at his humor. The greatest philosopher in the world to-day, in my mind, is Ham Bone. And this, by the way, is the distinguishing characteristic. There are some people whose humor is based upon ignorance—the wrong point. Another type never sees the point at all—we laugh at him. Still another type shows humor based upon tragic misunderstanding. But only in Negro humor lies a profound philosophy of life. I have been married nineteen years. Ham Bone says, "They keep on saying marriage is a failure. If it is, it is the most successful failure I ever seen, because everybody keeps on doing it."

The Negro has already made certain definite contributions toward play and recreational life. The banjo is the instrument that the Negro created as a slave. Those who have lived long enough know of the strumming of the banjo down in the quarters, in the midst of slavery. He brought it along and the white man has taken it away from him, while he has taken over the guitar. And as you go up and down on the railroads you can hear him playing his guitar, entertaining the rest of the coach with his music.

Then he gave us rag time. Some of you may prick up your ears, but everybody likes it, just the same. And when ragtime got frazzled, he put on the jazz, and carried it overseas, and folks in the rest of the world have gone crazy about it. And where he made dollars and cents, Paul Whiteman and others have made thousands of dollars out of his jazz, and the last thing he has done to set the country by the ears is to bring on the "Charleston." To speak seriously, what he has done is to

give to the world rhythmic play, and folks who could not play before are playing now. Folks too old to play before are doing the fox trot and the Charleston. He has produced something that has made life more cheerful, the burdens of life easier to bear, and one of the greatest shows that has been put on in New York recently is a colored show where they carried all that rhythmic playing to the quintessence of excellence.

So much for his own instincts and own impulses. Now let us see what chance the Negro—the rank and file—has to give expression to his play life. In cities like Greenville, South Carolina, provision is made for them, but there are hundreds of other towns where they haven't such enlightened citizenship as Mr. Parker, where they have not arrived at the point to see with the eyes of these men. Let us see what the Negro has. Dr. Moton, the Principal of Tuskegee, says: "I have been a Negro for fifty-nine years—all of my life—and this is what I have seen: that the chances that are open to the Negro for the expression of his play life are these: the pool room, dance hall, in a former day, the saloon, which is gone, the dive and blind tiger, cheap theatre,—they won't let him in any other kind—and moving picture houses; everyone of them a source of revenue to somebody else." What he is trying to do is to find an outlet for his impulses to play.

I was living in a city in a certain State when the Negroes of the community awoke to a realization of the conditions surrounding them, united their funds and established a park on the edge of the city, about a mile beyond the end of the car line, and, as it happened, about a mile beyond the cemetery, too. It went on so well, and the Negroes went out in such large numbers to the open spaces where there were green grass and trees and brooks and streams, that it began to cut down the revenues of the dives and saloons in Black Bottom. It became so serious that a group of men introduced a bill into the legislature of that State that no public park should be established within one mile of a cemetery, ostensibly to guard the sacred presence of the dead, but really to close up this place that was cutting off the revenues of Black Bottom. It passed the legislature—would you believe it? But the same group of black men that established that park went to the Governor and told their story and told what they were trying to do, and that Governor promptly vetoed the bill, and the park stands there yet.

In the place of that legislature, to-day there are coming on those who, recognizing that need, are

taking the initial steps to provide what must be provided, and what was provided under such hazardous circumstances by my own people.

Over against what has been provided in the past, what the Negro himself has found in the past as an avenue for his own recreation life, what do we find on the other side of the color line? That the white boy and white man have those parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, libraries, public auditoriums and theatres, and now, gentlemen, in my State they are beginning to provide public golf links, from all of which the Negro is excluded. Here is a man who has told you that the Negro in the past has not been getting a square deal, and he and those like him are setting themselves to the task of seeing that Negro boys and girls and Negro men and women have avenues for wholesome expression of their recreational life, as do other races in our country.

What about boys and girls? I have been talking about adults. Thus far, Negro boys and girls are limited to the streets and alleys, the pool rooms, dance halls, dives and other questionable resorts. They get into the toils of the chain gangs; yes, those boys and girls. But, gentlemen, in my State, happily, there is a place for boys: a reform school, about thirty miles away from us. We have to-day something more than 300 boys in that reform school. It was my privilege to carry moving pictures down to them. The members of our faculty provided automobiles to carry them, and the moving picture exchange house furnished them for nothing. I have seen there 380 boys ranging from seven to twenty years of age. And this is the striking thing about their life: it is out in the country, they have no bars, no guards, scarcely any locks; but in the course of a year's time not three percent of that number tried to get away. Why? For the vast majority of them it is the first opportunity they have ever had in their lives for a wholesome, normal life. There is a joke about a preacher who went to a penitentiary to make a talk, and when he stood up before the men he said, "I am glad to see so many of you here." When you go to Mt. Meigs, Alabama, and stand before that group of boys, you can say that and it is no joke. You are glad to see them there; glad to see them out of the alleys, out of the streets, out of the dives, out of the saloons—glad to see them given their first chance for a normal life. They are just like any other boys—their youth, instincts to play, are what have led them astray; and when they get a chance to play, and avenues of play under conditions which are normal for play, they show

it just like other boys. Yes, like other boys; because this is what happens:

If they stop at Mt. Meigs long enough and complete the school course there, we receive them into Tuskegee Institute. I have had a Negro boy come to Tuskegee from one of those little towns where he had no chance, accustomed to run up and down and do as he pleased. He didn't want to follow rules and regulations, and six times we had to get him out of the woods where he had been staying with a blanket and such food as other boys brought. He didn't want to stay in school. But at length he was broken in, and to-day he is a successful dentist in Ensley, Alabama. A normal life made of him a super-normal man.

In your plans for recreation, don't take it all away from the homes. Keep it around the house as much as you can. The home life of many Negroes is already too unsubstantial. They have had only about sixty years of opportunity to make a home, and it is no occasion for surprise if the home life of many Negroes does not have all the refinements or all the attractions that you find in your home life. But you are conserving the central organization of society when you conserve the home. And when you establish recreation centers in a community, that means that father and mother and daughter and son must leave home in order to find wholesome amusement, fellowship with friends and attractive surroundings, and you are cutting the foundation from under the home. The legitimate foundation of public recreation centers is home life that has wholesome amusement within its confines.

As a matter of fact, it is the search for recreation that takes black and white, young and old, single and married, away from home. That was the old argument for the saloon. It is a legitimate argument, if there is no home life. And now what do we find in these days? First of all, what you must have commented upon already—the drift away from the rural sections into the urban sections. What does it mean? Well, you have read the story of the prodigal, haven't you? This is where I go back to being a preacher. The prodigal son—why did he leave home? It is written right in the story. When he found his error, he came back home and his father had spread the feast, and the elder brother was sorrowful and morose and bitter. His father asked him what was wrong, and he said, "Lo, all these years have I served thee, nor yet have I transgressed any of thy commandments, and yet thou never gavest me a kid that I might make merry with my friends."

There is the answer to the question why boys leave home. That is the answer to the question why the black man has left the South. It isn't that the work is too hard on the farm; it isn't that toil is too burdensome. But there is the eternal question: "What are you going to do when the work is done?" And the answer has been this: "nothing, nothing, nothing." And I think that is just as true of white boys that leave the country and go to the city as of black boys and men. Do we want to hold folks to the country? Put something out there for the hours of leisure.

One of the problems we have is that of juvenile marriage. Fourteen and fifteen years is the common thing, and why? Frankly, when two young people in the country where I live get interested in each other, there is nothing else in the world to do but to get married. And in the wake of that comes this sort of problem: from marriage, divorce. Not the conventional divorce through the courts. They just quit. There is no concern about courts. How many times have I gone into Macon County—"Where is your husband?" "I don't know." I have in mind a home I visited—a mother with three daughters, each of them under twenty years of age, each with a child in her arms, each married, and each with a husband who had left her and she didn't know where he was.

That is the recreation problem in the country. One more thing I have observed and I will stop. One of the things I think the white man of the South particularly treasures is the negro playmates of his youth. It is a tender and precious recollection to everyone of them. Times without number have I heard it referred to on the platform—and far, far more in this day than the story of the black mammy is the story of the black playmates of his childhood. I have been thinking this recently: the fact about that is that the black boy and white boy can play together in their childhood. They run, they swim, they wrestle, they box, they fight. Yes, they fight, and promptly forget it. Why, why is it necessary, when they get old, that they should lose that spirit of childhood? Why should it be necessary that, as adults, black people and white people can not live side by side with the same spirit of fairness, that same spirit of good comradeship that characterizes them when they are young? Of this much I am sure: that prejudice is not hereditary. It isn't born in us. The black man is not born to hate the white man and the white man is not born to hate the black man. Something else—ah, I venture to say, somebody else—steps in between those two and teaches them

something else. Jesus said something like this: "Except ye become as little children ye shall in no wise enter into the Kingdom of Heaven," and I am wondering if, in the depth of His own wisdom, He did not have something of this very spirit of the playfulness of childhood in mind. I at least would venture to say that if you could get back in the adult life the spirit of fairness, the spirit of justice, the spirit of good will which each of the two races know in childhood, you would solve the race problem, all the frictions, all the problems of adult life, and leave our Southern life as happy and sweet as the recollections of childhood in the mind and heart of each man.

I plead for this: that you approach in the future the problem of your communities from the angle of bringing back into adult life the sense of justice, the sense of fairness, the sense of good will that each instinctively knows. When a black boy fights a white boy, one boy fights another; but, alas, when one black man fights a white man, he fights the whole community! You see this afternoon what is happening in Greenville, South Carolina. Yonder in the hotel you have the exhibit of what is happening in Durham. In Atlanta we have made just a beginning.

And this I promise: that with the multiplication of those spots where boys and girls and men and women can play, they will forget their rancor, their bitterness, their hate, forget their prejudice, and find in the man who lives opposite them nothing more than another one of God's children.

Braddock Allowed to Use Cemetery as Park

A park and playground for the borough of Braddock, Pa., is made possible in a court order handed down by Judge Joseph M. Swearingen in Quarter Sessions Court. The park will comprise the old John Robbins Cemetery, which has been abandoned for the past thirty-five years.

The property is located along the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Frazier Street and Maple Way. The petition accompanying the court order sets forth that it is believed that all of the bodies have been removed from the lot, but if there are still any in that burial ground they will be removed at the expense of the borough.

The ground is centrally located and will be available for all of the inhabitants of the borough. The petition states that Braddock does not have a park or playground at the present time.

Recreation in Colored Communities

By

E. T. ATTWELL

Field Director of the Bureau of Colored Work, Playground and Recreation Association of America

You will find in every community one or more kindly, sympathetic people who will be willing to give assistance in the development of a program for colored people. I wish Mr. Parker could, this afternoon, have given you the secret of how he influenced his fellow-citizens in Greenville to do what they have accomplished, because while we gave a little assistance in the way of suggestion and by giving the history of other community centers, I hold Mr. Parker responsible for the development of the Phyllis Wheatley Center and for the interest of the white people of that community in this center. There we find an inter-racial group of colored and white people fostering and guiding the destinies of this colored recreation center for the benefit of the colored people.

I have sat in with inter-racial committees in the Northern States where we discussed the abstract questions of right and wrong and then adjourned and went home; but to find a combination of black and white people sitting together to decide to do some concrete thing for the betterment and for upbuilding of colored people is quite a different matter. Mr. Parker, I hold, is responsible for leadership in that direction in Greenville, South Carolina, and I would to God that such men could be multiplied.

Someone referred the other day to the matter of the progress of the recreation movement, and I told him it reminded me of a story Dr. Washington used to tell: One day, while taking a horseback ride at five or six o'clock in the morning, he met an old colored woman in the road. He pulled up his horse and asked her where she was going. She looked at him a moment and said, "Why, Dr. Washington, I done been where I is gwine." I am glad to say that this recreation movement for colored people has not been where it is going, but is merely on its way.

Whatever progress we have made does not mean that we have adequately developed the recreation program for colored people in that community. As Mr. Lassiter has told you, it is not a question of North, South, East or West, so far as I have been able to sense it. I have made surveys in

Southern and Northern cities, and the farther North I have gone, the less recreation, under proper leadership, have I found among colored people.

The opportunity for the right sort of recreation for colored people has been sadly neglected. In other words, there are inadequate facilities. In many communities where you will see facilities like high school auditoriums or halls of various kinds that are generally open to the public, when it comes to activities for colored people, those halls and those facilities are very difficult to obtain. And this is true in cities where its buildings are used by white and colored people alike.

There is a side of recreation for colored people that goes to my heart, and that is the social recreation phase which has been sadly neglected among the masses of colored people in most of the cities. And in some of the rural districts, where I like to carry the recreation message, about the only time the colored people get together for a social gathering is when they have a big funeral. In the cities, the alleys and gutters and dives are no more fit places for the development of the colored people than they would be for any man or woman of the white race.

Many of us have taken it for granted that in the general recreation city-wide programs colored citizens would be cared for as well as other citizens, and be given the opportunity to participate in community recreation. This has not been true, and it will not be true in cities where you come from, unless you give it your special attention. The Playground and Recreation Association of America realized this, and in order that special emphasis might be given the problem, organized the Bureau of Colored Work.

There are approximately ninety cities in which city-wide recreation activities are conducted that include opportunities for colored people, and about fifty-two community centers for colored citizens. It is difficult in many towns and cities to discover any special emphasis on activities for colored people, because a great many communities don't care to emphasize any division of the work.

I don't know whether they are afraid of developing a problem or whether they are generous and don't want to make anybody feel any difference between people in the community. There is a tremendous interest in education in those communities, so far as colored people are concerned. They are pretty liberal, also, regarding religion, and I am glad to see that because the colored people are the most religious people in America. But all of this freedom in the development of religion will be nullified unless the recreation problem is taken care of.

Last year there was new interest in the developing of playgrounds. A few of the smaller communities have been aided by the Harmon foundation, which through their offer cooperated with committees and cities in which colored people live. Orangeburg, South Carolina, and Williamsburg, Virginia, were assisted in securing land in the city for permanent playgrounds for colored people. The spaces ran from two and a half to six acres, and cost from \$200 to \$3500 apiece. In Lake Charles, Louisiana, the colored people are now getting together to raise funds for playground property.

One can turn from the Greenville project to Shreveport, Louisiana, where fifteen acres have just been purchased for the recreation use of its colored population. It was reported that approximately \$24,000 was expended by the municipality in buying this property, and the Park Board has appropriated \$2500 as an initial expenditure to make the ground usable. When you think of cities in Louisiana spending \$24,000 to \$30,000 for the development of play facilities for colored people, you have struck a new point of view. As I travel from city to city, visiting Lexington, Kentucky, with its fourteen acre playground; Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with a thirty acre playground, I get the challenge: "We have the best provision for the play of colored people of any place of the South."

A complete survey of this work has not been made, so far as workers and development are concerned. I am merely trying to mention a few of the high spots. One is leadership. We recognize the leadership of many colored people themselves, and this is a new note. We used to have to seek young colored people who might come to our training schools in Chicago; but this year, with practically no advertising, we had registered fifty-two young men and women for the training school, from twenty-one states. This sort of development, as I say, indicates a very encouraging

sign of progress for recreation provision for colored people throughout America—an opportunity that every citizen will take advantage of as soon as he realizes the possibilities in it and the values in this whole movement.

I have not touched the rich development that has come with the progress of these various recreation centers. I would not attempt to tell you of the numbers of choral societies developed out of community centers in various parts of the country. And as to dramatics—I haven't time to describe the pageants developed among colored groups. In presenting pageants in various communities, we thought they would interest merely the colored people, but we were gratified to find that many white people attended the exhibitions in Southern cities.

Athletics are popular with Dallas people and 43 free tennis courts, 30 baseball diamonds, 4 football and soccer fields, 16 outdoor (and 1 indoor) basket ball courts are maintained.

With four municipal courses, two for adults and two for Juniors, there is unusually good provision for the playing of golf in the city. There is one 18-hole course for adults with sand greens on a 120-acre tract site and one 240-acre tract with 18 holes grass green and 9 holes sand green. The two Junior courses are 9-hole courses, one grass green on a 75-acre tract and the other sand green on a 50-acre tract. All under 21 years of age may play free on these courses. A course for exclusive use by women is now under construction.

Four indoor field houses, one live stock center and a municipal zoo are maintained by the Park Department. The zoo occupies a tract of 36 acres and contains over 1000 specimens. The maintenance is taken care of through the cold drink and other concessions—the initial cost of the specimens being the only expense. A zoological society has been started with memberships ranging from one to ten dollars.

In addition to all the other attractions, Dallas is the home of the Texas State Fair, said to be the largest educational and recreational production in the United States. The Fair ground, which belongs to the Park Department, has a stadium seating 15,000 people and a field with 9 ball diamonds, all of which are oftentimes in use at the same time.

Music, dramatics and social recreation play a large part in the city's program, which reaches in one way or another practically everybody in Dallas.

Recreation and the Individual*

By

JOHN BROWN, JR.

Joseph Lee, Chairman: Dr. John Brown, Jr., was born in Scotland, and began his career in recreation and physical education work at the age of seventeen, in the Young Men's Christian Association, at Toronto, Canada. For the past twenty-eight years, Dr. Brown has served the Young Men's Christian Association in local, national and international capacities. During the war he was general supervisor of war work for Canada at home and abroad. Since 1919 he has been Senior Secretary of the physical department of the Young Men's Christian Association, treasurer of the American Olympic Team in Paris in 1924, President of the National Basketball Officials' Committee, and Secretary of the National Volley Ball Committee. Dr. Brown has given much thought to the whole subject of adapting recreation programs to serve individual needs, and we are glad to have him here this morning with us. He will speak on *Recreation and the Individual*.

Dr. Brown: I am tremendously interested in this subject, as all of us are. I hesitated when I was asked to talk on the topic of *Recreation and the Individual*. It is so all-inclusive. So far as man is concerned, of course there would be no recreation but for the individual, and the study of the individual is essential to the discovery of a scientific program that will meet the needs of the individual.

I believe that the time has come in our recreation work when the recreation director must be a director of thinking rather than a director of activities of the people. And so it seems to me that we must think through the question of recreation in relation to the all round development of the individual and then think through the program and the kind of organization and facilities requisite to put on the program necessary to make for the all-round development of the individual through activities that the individual will be led to work out as requisite needs in his own daily regime. And he will do this because of the advance thinking that we have done, the leadership that we have given. And, incidentally in passing may I remark that I believe increasingly the recreation director must give evidence in his own life that he has a carefully thought out philosophy for himself which he is practising, by which his influence counts for more than what he says.

I am going to read some extracts from correspondence that I have had, thinking that in this way you will get the point of view of men whose opinions you regard highly. Through this corre-

spondence, you will notice an emphasis upon the basic place of recreation in the life of the individual because of its relation to health. Recreation adds years to the life, and life to the years. In this connection, a few years ago I was tremendously impressed by a statement made by a man then eighty-two years of age. He is still living, and had his eighty-fourth birthday last month. At the age of forty he began to give attention to this matter of recreation as he had not heretofore, and in speaking to him I asked him the question as to the benefits he derived from exercise and recreation and the amount of time that he gave to it. He made this very significant comment. He said, "As I grow older I find that I do not need as much exercise or recreation but what little I need, I need more."

One of the striking things that is apparent in this correspondence and in the deliberations of all thoughtful people is that more and more recreation is being thought of as a phase of the whole life, all through the life. We are not thinking now of playgrounds for children only. There is need of recreation all through life, and there is need in this day for emphasis upon recreation for the adult. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," but the contrary of that is just as true,—"all play and no work makes Dad a bad citizen." And while on the one hand we have many adults who live recreationless lives, we have too many adults who make play their work, and so we are endeavoring, it seems to me, to inject a new spur into life, a new attitude toward life, to inject if you will, recreation into work. I should like to couple with our President's happy phrase, "The Happy Amateur," that of "The Happy Worker"—to inject the "vacation" spirit into "vocation." Just with the idea of impressing upon us this personal individualistic element in our whole recreation program, I should like to pin your thought on just this phrase, that we personalize our objectives, that we humanize our tasks; that in thinking of the playground statistics, we think not so much about statistics of materials, but facts with reference to individuals; that we fix our attention upon the fact not that we are teaching activities but teaching individ-

*Address given at Recreation Congress, Asheville, North Carolina, October 5-10, 1925.

uals; that we are working not on playgrounds, but on living human beings. Our statistics should play up the fact not that we have so many playgrounds, but that we have so many children being served in so many playgrounds.

I think there is a big difference and there is a reflex influence on our own thinking even in the way that we think of our statistics. Vital statistics are not some abstract thing, but the records of organic conditions and living of individuals.

Then let us keep in mind that we would have no groups, no teams, no mass games but for the individuals who compose them, and let us remind ourselves that while we are thinking of recreation for the mass, for the nation, for the community, recreation for all the people, it functions and serves humanity only as it touches this individual life. Sickness means nothing until some person becomes sick; getting well generally means nothing until some sick person gets well, and when it strikes home it becomes very personal. It is in that sort of fashion that this subject has gripped me in the last few months. What a transformation in the lives of the people and in the life of the nation would occur if recreation really came into the lives of more individuals!

As an additional objective that we are striving for is the effort to bring recreation into the life of the individual so as to counteract the tendency to premature old age. That would bring this thing about, more people, as their families grow up, would grow down. I am sure that you have in the range of your friendships men and women, parents who as the children have matured have so caught their youthful spirit that as they have grown older in years, in spirit they have reversed the process and have become younger. That is what we are after in this recreation for the individual—the buoyancy begotten of association with youth and the refusal to take life so seriously that it is robbed of its rightful joy.

The letters I hold in my hand all emphasize the necessity for the recreation directors ascertaining through some process the physical condition of the individual before attempting to prescribe a program that will meet the recreation needs of that individual. In addition to dealing with the matter indicated, there is positive suggestion that through recreation we counteract functional disorders. I cannot dwell on that at length.

Dr. Crampton gives some guiding principles to the director: "Love your fellow man. You

will understand him best with your heart, and make him understand and trust you."

"Play freely yourself and really like to do it. Be an honest example."

"Know your man, including his physical condition."

"Select recreation within his capacity but as far opposite to his ordinary occupation as possible. Provide companionship, follow up your man. It usually takes more than one stroke to drive a nail."

Here is a letter from Dr. Fiske of the Life Extension Institute:

"I should say that the recreation director should lead and not drive. It is important for him to diagnose the recreation need of his subject and not be too ready to accept him as a fixed type. While it is unwise to direct a man of a certain type in recreation for which he is mentally or physically unfit, on the other hand, I think people are fundamentally much more alike than they are willing to admit. Oftentimes a man who thinks he is adapted only to solitary recreation will find on trial that he has reserve stores of good fellowship and capacity for mingling with his kind that he has not suspected."

In that connection, I should like to read an extract from a letter from Professor George E. Johnson, who writes as follows: "I do not see the need in general of differentiation of activities according to vocation. Of course, individual needs and interest and circumstances will always enter into the solution of personal recreation problems, but I do not see why all classes mentioned might not have the same recreation activities. To differentiate on the basis of vocation would be to base one's practice merely on the basis of surplus energy and this infers that it would involve powers not used in work."

In other words, there are two points of view in approaching the problem of meeting the recreation needs of the individual. Shall we classify our groups according to needs and then classify our program and fit these individuals in carefully selected groups so that they will get the sort of classified work that we have arranged to meet the particular needs of those groups? It seems to me that is our big task. The other angle is this. Are individuals so peculiar that each individual must be studied as apart from all the others and then assigned or prescribed specific work that he must follow through individually? The overwhelming evidence of this study is that there is far more in common in all of us than

there is in the way of differentiation; that if we base our programs upon scientific principles, upon the great broad needs of the average individual, whether he is a postman or fireman or clerk or industrial worker, regardless of his vocation or manner of life, his essential needs will largely be met by carefully worked out all-round programs. The small number of individuals requiring additional personal attention may be cared for in some specially devised way, but the social needs of the individual, the needs for general upbuilding, and the need for recreation, for the spirit of companionship, for diversion, for big muscle activity, for the use of heart, lungs and limbs, for teamwork, provided our program is complete, demand that we give emphasis to outdoor work under character-building leadership and character-building processes.

I have not time to pass on the many suggestions that have come as to what is being done in various playgrounds and recreation centers to meet the needs of the individual. This will have to be left to sectional conferences, but may I close with the thought with which I opened my remarks, that a new day has come, a new challenge is presented to the director of recreation who wishes to make the maximum contribution to humanity and that is that we must think through the philosophy for our whole recreation program on the basis of individual need with a plan of organization, a form of equipment, a type of program activity organized and classified, and with men and trained leadership to meet these individuals. There must, too, be far more of educational content so that there will come to those engaged in recreation through our program an understanding which will enable them to go on in this work and to have the satisfaction of achievement in seeing progress in the working out of their own recreation program.

The Chairman: It is not for a chairman to do, but I really want to emphasize one or two things the speaker said. His study is a wonderful confirmation of the theory this whole organization is based on,—the study of the individual, what he wants. He asked the people who know best, and he says the overwhelming evidence is that there is underneath all the Man Universal, a type toward which we tend. That is the theory of the whole play movement. If that were not so, if certain things were left out that belong to the human being, the whole thing would not be worth while. If it is left out, the man dies. That is the result. There would be no need of educa-

tion or need of play; there would be nothing behind this movement, if there were not something of a type toward which all tend; yet every blossom on the tree differs from every other blossom and has its particular way of giving the message of the whole tree. That is at the bottom of Froebel's philosophy. The tree expresses itself through the blossom and the blossom is not there except as it contains the tree. It is all there in all of us and the job of this organization is to bring it out.

I cannot help saying something about statistics, too. People are always telling us, "You want first to get the facts." That is a good thing to start, first get all the facts. When we go into a town and find what is going on, we find a few facts, as for example the number of acres in the playground, and the number of children. Johnny played baseball this afternoon. What did it mean in his temper, in his character and his future citizenship? A pretty subtle thing! Johnny does not know; his mother does not know. We go with a pencil and piece of paper and get all the facts about Johnny. It is only the Lord who knows the facts. If we find one-tenth, we are doing well. If you get the facts and add them in a column, not one of the facts tells one-tenth of the story and if you think it does, you are fooling yourself. I think we have got to have fact men, but don't let us take them too seriously.

Dr. Burdette G. Lewis speaking before the National Conference of Juvenile Agencies, cited among the causes of the present crime conditions:

"The breaking up of the American home. Let modern science and religious leaders unite to re-establish the integrity of the American home upon a more modern basis.

"The great variety of races in our cities. Let there be an effective educational program, varied to meet the religious, cultural and economic needs of the various races.

"Lack of adventure in ordinary living. Let there be national games and sports of all kinds and the widest use of the radio in extending physical and moral training, so that there may be an intelligent response to the craving for romance.

"Lack of a comprehensive moral and social program. Let there be a comprehensive moral and social program to be carried out by the individual, by the family and by the church, by the public in private capacity and by the government in its organized capacity.

A Carnival that Pioneered

By

JOSEPHINE BLACKSTOCK

Director, Playground Board of Oak Park, Illinois

Up to now, ice carnivals have had little to do with Rudyard Kipling, possessing few literary pretensions to speak of; but if Mr. Kipling had happened to be in Oak Park, Ill., at a certain community ice carnival in December, he might seriously have considered revamping his theory about an unbridgable gulf that divides two geographical boundaries. For on the particular winter days in question, north did indeed meet west in an alignment that was both vivid and colorful. There was Quebec with a picturesque cross section; Switzerland had lent a glittering measurement, and Alaska had trekked in Hudson Bay jacket straight across the threshold.

And now for the very practical story.

One day last November the members of the Playground Board decided that Oak Park ought to have an ice carnival, and for three reasons. The first reason was that the adult population was not availing itself of the skating rinks and toboggan slides; the second was that the boys and girls knew as much about bright and colorful outing costumes as so many monks in a convent; and the third, that the newly erected stadium, seating 6,000 people and built at a cost of \$110,000, with its athletic field a square block in extent, was never used except during the briefest of football and baseball seasons.

How They Went About It

Accordingly, the president of the council of Oak Park service clubs, five in number, was asked to recommend to the various organizations that they each donate \$75.00 towards the carnival, an appeal that was favorably voted upon. The Park Board was similarly approached and responded with a contribution of nearly \$300.00. The Playground Board was responsible for the remaining cost, the total outlay on the carnival being \$1,200.00. At the first meeting of the community carnival committee, representatives from the following organizations were present—Playground Board, Park Board, Rotary, Lions, Optimists, Real Estate Board, Commercial Association, Boy Scouts, Y. M. C. A., Public Service,

High School. The director of the playgrounds was elected general chairman, and the following sub committees appointed—Program, Grounds, Lighting, Decorations, Publicity, Prizes, Music.

An embankment twelve inches high was thrown up about the athletic field. Several weeks before the carnival the first light flooding was done; this was followed by almost daily sprinklings. A bandstand was erected near the main entrance of the stadium in a central position so that the sound of the music would carry well. The players were protected by a back and two sides to the bandstand. Incidentally, the bandstand was constructed from the stage belonging to the children's theatre of the playgrounds and a number of large boxes. A smaller judges' stand (the platform of the merry whirl) was placed towards one corner of the field. A space where the events took place in the center of the rink was roped off, and in order to insure good ice, the public was prohibited from using it. Lighting was effected through eight five-hundred watt floods, placed four at the ends and four in the center of the stadium. These lights threw a brilliant spill over the entire field. They were adjustable, and thus during the special events the light could be focussed on a particular spot. The central object of the field was a huge Christmas tree, and beside this was placed a tall pole to afford illumination for the tree.

The decoration committee's special job was to trim the tree, which was beautifully effected with extra long icicles, colored bulbs (large size) and an illuminated star, and to decorate the field with pennants. These were made up of what the manufacturer called holiday stock, bright greens, reds and yellows, and the pennants were strung from the top of the thirty-five foot pole to the ends of the field. From the top of the stadium flew the bright colored flags of the various high schools of Chicago and its suburbs.

An efficient committee visited prominent business men of the community and asked for donations of silver cups for first places. It proved an easy undertaking to assemble ten handsome

cups. A resident of Oak Park had recently invented an oxidized silver medallion, rather large in size, and bearing the Oak Park emblem and a raised figure of a skater. These were purchased at a dollar each and given as awards for first place in the individual events. Ribbons were awarded for second and third places. The cups were given for the best costumes, best exhibition of fancy skating, and for the highest point scorers in the intermediate and senior races. The juniors were given shields.

Music was furnished by a twelve-piece band, the Chicago Ex-Service Men's Band, and consisted of lively dance tunes.

A Novel Heating System

One of the unique features of the carnival was the heating system. This comprised a dozen or more salamanders, borrowed for the occasion from contractors. Filled with coke, they afforded a cheerful appearance and gave out adequate heat. They were placed on the bandstand and about the field. Checking rooms and waiting rooms inside the stadium were heated by large gas heaters.

Getting Publicity

Publicity was procured in a number of ways. Posters were placed in windows of the leading shops, and were distributed by the Boy Scouts. A large sign was placed over the stadium. One of the leading dry goods merchants was persuaded to lend a corner window for an exhibition of effective outing costumes, of skates, skis and snow shoes and a display of the cups and carnival posters. The window became the favorite parking place of every boy's nose in Oak Park! One of the banks further lent space for an exhibition of the cups and other trophies. The street cars bore large announcements of the event. The Chicago papers seized on the salamanders for a feature story, and there were pictures of the costumes, the three-legged race, and other novelties daily during the two-day events in all of the city newspapers. The local papers gave the carnival excellent space and played up the event both on their covers and in large inside spreads. On the day of the carnival, hand bills were distributed at the stations of the Elevated Railroad. The various clubs were asked to announce the event at their regular meetings. When the opening night arrived there was little to ask for in the way of crowds, for the attendance was large and representative.

The Program

The program covered two days. It opened on December 29 at 2:30 p.m. with preliminary races for the junior and intermediate classes. These events included 50-yard and 100-yard dashes; three-legged race; backward skating; one skate race; relays, and obstacle races. The obstacle race was an amusing novelty, the boys skating through barrels. In the evening there were band music and exhibitions of speed skating by three of the outstanding skaters in the country, one of whom was the ex-skating champion of the world, and another the indoor skating champion of the west. They appeared in picturesque skating outfits, one of them in the all-white costume he had worn the previous year at the Olympic contests. The following afternoons the finals of the junior and intermediate classes and the senior races were run off. The latter included dashes, quarter mile, half mile, mile, backward skating and relays.

The final evening brought the gala event of the two days' program—the mardi gras. The roped off space presented a glamorous picture, with many of the implications of a European carnival scene. The costumes, a number of them brought over from Norway, Germany, Italy, Scotland and Holland, were authentic and varied. The silver cup for men went to a young Hollander wearing a Dutch peasant costume, complete from a meerschaum pipe its wearer was smoking to a pair of clogs thrown over his shoulders; that for the boys to a youngster dressed in a Highlander's costume. There were clowns, a dancing bear, Pierrot and Pierrette, a cowboy, fairies, peasants from half a dozen lands, and most of the rest of the classic fancy dress legendry. Perhaps the feature that pleased the committee most was the number of picturesque skating costumes, bright sweaters, gaily colored scarfs and caps and fur trimmed skirts.

The contest for the best figure skating brought out a large group of contestants. The number was followed by a lantern parade by a group of Girl Scouts, dressed in bright colored old English carollers' costumes. The lights were extinguished and the darting figures moving in a serpentine dance about the ice, carrying their lighted hand-made lanterns, made a memorable picture. Then there followed the high spot of the evening, the exhibition of fancy skating by two nationally known ice stars, Edna Blue and Billie Bourke. The couple appeared in effective all-white costumes and gave a spectacular performance.

The night scenes at the carnival were vivid and beautiful. The darting, weaving skaters in their bright colored costumes; the arabesques of multi-colored lights from the tree; a high sky lit by occasional stars and white drifts of clouds; the glimmer and flaunt of long pennant strings; the sound of music falling softly over night and snow and drifting figures—these all were movement and color from the brush of a great artist.

And so the carnival ended—or the carnival committee thought it did. They found shortly afterward that they were mistaken. The event had brought an overwhelming demand for the athletic field and stadium to become an arena for outdoor events for the community. The city wanted more of it! The general chairman, writing three weeks after the carnival ended, has classified the carnival results as follows:

1. A committee of high school board members waited on carnival committee and asked that the same group maintain the athletic field throughout the winter for skating and tobogganing. A winter sports committee was accordingly organized, a toboggan slide built reaching almost to the top of the stadium, the ice kept in excellent condition for skaters, with checking and waiting rooms.

2. The flood lights were permanently installed by the high school board and an innovation in mid-west graduations will in all probability be out-of-door exercises for next June's 600 graduates, a solution of a long-felt problem of seating twice as many people as the high school assembly room will hold.

3. So appreciative of the carnival were residents that on the final night alone about \$600 was voluntarily subscribed toward the maintenance of the field for winter sports. In less than an hour a member of the Playground Board raised \$1,000 over and above that sum.

4. —The Playground Board is discussing a great May Day festival at the field, with representatives of every grade and high school taking part; it is laying plans for a summer concert.

5. The carnival will probably be perpetuated by a painting by one of the outstanding artists of America, a resident of the district.

6. Tobogganing and skating have received an impetus in Oak Park of incalculable meaning. One evening's attendance last week passed the thousand mark, and a goodly percentage consisted of adults. Today the rink is the background for numberless colorful and picturesque costumes. Applications have been received from twenty clubs, churches and business organizations asking for permission to hold toboggan and skating parties on the rink. We give such groups exclusive use of eight of the toboggans. These parties in Oak Park have put bridge and Mah Jongg on the run.

7. A winter sports club has been organized among the young women of the community that appears to have a lusty future ahead.

8. Lastly, oh fabulous climax, oh sweet revenge, Evanston, Illinois, classic "rival" of Oak Park, has asked for the details of the carnival that that city may stage a similar event!



OAK PARK, ILLINOIS, TRIUMPHS OVER WINTER

Neighborhood Recreation Centers^{*}

By

TAM DEERING

Superintendent of Recreation for Municipality and City Schools, San Diego, California

Self-expression whether in our work or in our play requires the cooperation of our fellows. The expression of the family life and the solution of home problems call for cooperation with other families in the immediate neighborhood. Citizenship is not a cold and abstract relationship. People must have the opportunity to participate in neighborhood affairs. They must be given some local responsibility of a tangible nature. As Joseph Lee has said, to become a real member of the community is to recover the most vital of all the strands of life.

What we need is to develop a real neighborhood life. The first step toward this development is to establish a neighborhood center about which community life may grow.

A Suggested "Ideal Type"

The neighborhood civic center, combining the playground with the school, the branch library and the neighborhood park would seem to be the ideal type of recreation center. If the school is to be properly equipped for its educational program for the children it must have adequate land space, auditorium, social hall, class rooms, cafeteria, shop, music facilities, showers, lockers and other equipment. The branch library should be an adjunct to the school as fifty per cent of the use of the branch library is by the children. The school children should be surrounded with the beauty of flowers, trees, grass, landscaping and gardens. Hence, the neighborhood park should be an adjunct of the school.

The neighborhood civic center, including the school, park, playground, library and other facilities, might well become the heart of the neighborhood life, providing for all the varied educational, recreational and social functions of the neighborhood. It would be used by everyone from the little child in the ring games and sand play to the oldest inhabitant reading in the library or playing horse shoes in the field. The multiplicity of use

for different purposes would contribute toward making it the neighborhood capitol.

Financing the Center

Financing of the neighborhood civic center may be accomplished by the city as a whole through city, school, library and park bond issues. Or, it may be accomplished by the neighborhood itself through the local assessment plan. In San Diego, we have a number of neighborhood civic center projects which we are undertaking to procure by local assessment. In the Emerson neighborhood we are working for a fifteen acre civic center. To start with, the Emerson School had only one and six-tenths acres of land. The Southern View Improvement Club in cooperation with Community Service and the Board of Playground Commissioners worked out a plan for the Emerson Civic Center at the school. The neighborhood itself has petitioned the City Council for the creation of an assessment district in their neighborhood to purchase ten acres of land adjoining the school for a neighborhood park. Committees from the neighborhood, working with the Community Service and Board of Playground Commissioners have got the Board of Education to vote the sum of \$17,500 for the purchase of land for playground and building purposes, on condition that the neighborhood carry through the local assessment for the park. In a similar manner, the City Council and the City Manager have agreed to include an item of \$12,000 in the municipal budget for the purchase of a library site and an additional piece of land adjoining the ten acre tract. A street running between the school property and the ten acre park is to be abandoned so that the entire fifteen acres will be in one piece. The people intend to procure by local assessment the funds necessary to improve the ten acres as a park, as well as to make the original purchase. The park board has been asked to maintain the park after it is put in condition.

In the Logan Heights neighborhood the Improvement Club, on the recommendation of Com-

^{*}Extracts from address given at Recreation Conference, Western Division, P.R.A.A. Del Monte, California, November 16, 1925.

munity Service and the Board of Playground Commissioners, has voted unanimously to undertake to carry through the project for procuring thirty acres adjoining the present Junior High School site of nine acres. An option to procure the land at a cost of \$150,000 is now held by the Improvement Club. The Board of Education has been asked to provide one-half of this sum. The Logan Elementary School, which has nearly a thousand children in attendance, and which has only one and two-tenths acres of land, is to be sold and the school given a site on the forty acre tract.

Similar plans are being worked out in other neighborhoods and it is the intention of the Board of Playground Commissioners to assist in the development of such a civic center in each of the thirty neighborhoods of San Diego. This will mean that ultimately there will be a civic center at each elementary school. Of course, such a scheme can be carried through only after there has been brought about cooperation between the various municipal and school boards. In San Diego the Board of Playground Commissioners has adopted a resolution declaring that in the future, all neighborhood playgrounds shall be in conjunction with elementary schools and all district recreation fields in conjunction with Junior High Schools. The Board of Education adopted a similar resolution. The Library Board has agreed to the location of its branch libraries in conjunction with the elementary school and playground. The City Planning Commission has been drawn in.

NEED OF EDUCATION

The organization of the neighborhood to procure the civic center by local assessment is not without its difficulties. The taxpayer has come to see the value of streets and sidewalks even when procured by local assessment. It requires a good deal of educational work to get him to support a local assessment for a civic center. Such an improvement is certain to meet with the opposition of some of the taxpayers. In one of our neighborhoods, the first to undertake to procure a civic center by local assessment, a real tempest arose. "Why should our community be obliged to pay for its own playground when other neighborhoods are provided with playgrounds by the city," was the first question. "Taxes are terrible," wrote one lady to the city council. "Let those whose children are going to use the playground pay for it. I have no children and I don't see why I should have to pay for the other fellow's children," wrote

another taxpayer. "It will benefit the colored people most because they have land along one side of the Civic Center site," objected a number of people in another neighborhood. "Isn't someone making a profit off this land deal?" was another question. In one neighborhood, the president of the Improvement Club submitted an article to the newspaper favoring the civic center in which he made the statement that if the people of the neighborhood didn't get in and provide the money to buy the land by local assessment, if they "let George do it" that it would never be done. Immediately a business man, a prominent member of the club, whose first name is George, wrote a strong letter to the newspaper opposing the project because he was much offended, believing that he was the "George" referred to. He had never heard the expression before. Two laboring men who sat in the back of the hall where a mass meeting was called to discuss the civic center in one neighborhood were overheard as follows: The first said, "Are you for this civic center?" Reply, "No, I am against it. Let's kill off all the children. But if we are going to have children let's give 'em a place to play."

EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY LIFE A NECESSITY

Just as the family yearns for a home, a place of its own, an expression of the family life, so it would seem, the community hungers for some expression of the community life. The grouping of public buildings about an open park or promenade is the rule in European cities, which are famed for the dignity and beauty of their civic centers. Paris has its many civic centers such as the Louvre. Berlin has its Unter den Linden. Moscow its Kremlin. Brussels its Grand Palace. Vienna its Ringstrasse. Increasingly, American cities are creating civic centers. The plans of L'Enfant for Washington, D. C., are the pride of all Americans. Cleveland is establishing a \$14,000,000 civic center. Our own San Francisco has a remarkably beautiful civic center.

Does the civic center express the common aspirations of the community? I remember how in Aberdeen, Washington, the entire community, men and women of all groups, turned out to help in the construction by volunteer labor of their Civic Auditorium. Other cities have done likewise. Just recently one of the neighborhoods of metropolitan San Diego, Lincoln Acres, constructed their auditorium by volunteer labor. There seems to be a universal desire to express the oneness of our community life by the creation of

a building or civic center which shall belong to all.

Can the neighborhood civic center provide the essentials for the creative use of leisure time for all the people of the community? If it is to do so this center must be made completely democratic. It must provide an atmosphere, an attitude, a motive, conducive to the growth of a broad democratic spirit. No individual, class or clique, no particular brand of political or economic opinion can dominate it. Everyone must be made to feel at home at this center. There must be real leadership. The task is one of community organization, not merely directing activities. There can be no community unless there are leaders in whose minds and hearts the community exists. There must be a real program, a significant program. The aim must be not to put over something, but to help each person or group to get access to the opportunity to express creatively what he or they have to express.

All social, recreational and educational activities of a community nature might well be centralized at the neighborhood civic center. There must be provision for the little children. The young men and women must have the opportunity to come together for wholesome good times at which they may come to know and to select their life-mates. The older folks must be helped to arrange meetings at which they may discuss their common neighborhood problems, including local improvements, educational, political, industrial, health and other matters. Social and recreational opportunities for all must be provided.

Leisure we have increasingly for all. The sixteen hour day of long ago has dropped to twelve, and now to eight hours. Steinmetz and other scientists predict that with increasing control of the mechanical and electrical forces there will be no need for a longer working day than four hours. What shall the race do with its leisure? Shall it be the means to the degradation of the race or will mankind through the creative use of leisure achieve undreamed-of heights? The ancient Greeks through the use of leisure traced out the nearest approach we have had to the spiritual outline of a man. As Joseph Lee has said, "What can we do when leisure is at hand for all?" The challenge we face is to work out in the neighborhood the way whereby all men and women and all boys and girls may have a part in that finer community life for which the race has ever hungered, where each individual may attain his high-

est possibilities as a human being, and where each may share in a significant community life.

Our country is in the midst of an astonishing increase in wealth and of its wide diffusion among the whole people. The application of the many discoveries in the physical sciences, the increase in efficiency both in workers and executives, the elimination of industrial waste, and the advent of prohibition, have raised our standards of living and material comfort to a height unparalleled in our history and therefore in the history of the world. One of its by-products is a decrease of working hours, an increase in leisure.

I rejoice in all these things, for if they be applied rightly they mark a new bound forward in civilization itself. But there have been by-products which must give us concern. Forces have arisen with this great growth of national prosperity, no doubt helped by the loosening of moral and spiritual standards by the war, that must give us question as to the impairment of the reserves of individual and national character. Evidences of this lie in instances of weakening moral fibre; in loosening family and home ties, in youthful criminality, in the easy breaking of law by adults; in growing intolerance, in a leaning upon the State without corresponding willingness to bear its burden; in a disposition to disregard or suppress discontent instead of discovering the causes and removing them; in the intriguing or open purposes of groups to profit themselves regardless of the consequences to others and to the whole of society; in the complacency of millions over the wrongs and sufferings within and beyond our borders; and in waste and extravagance. Thus the perils ahead are moral, not economic.

Such a statement is neither an incitement to hysteria nor a support for barren pessimism. It is a call to create and maintain agencies for strengthening the moral and spiritual fibre parallel with our material agencies of progress. We have not lost the dominance of the old-fashioned virtues, of honesty, of neighborly service, of love of family and home, of faith in God, or the purposes of our country. There is time to act if enough of us care, but not feebly or along by-paths.

HERBERT HOOVER

Before the Forty-second International Convention of the
Y. M. C. A.'s of North America, Washington, D. C.,
October 26, 1925

Adults Play in Omaha

By

EDWIN S. JEWELL

Omaha, Nebraska

In addition to its organized play for children, Omaha has organized play for grown people. Omaha's adult play organization is called the Omaha Walking Club. This club has an active membership of two hundred and fifty men and women composed principally of teachers and



CLUB HIKES MAKE WEEK-ENDS MEMORABLE

people employed in offices. The club was organized March 30th, 1919 and is patterned after the Prairie Club of Chicago.

The Omaha Walking Club has a permanent camp located in the woods close to the Missouri river, about seven miles southeast of the city. At this camp the Club has erected four buildings. An inside circular fireplace and a large outside cooking range have been installed. The Club's equipment cost over two thousand dollars.

Dr. Harold Gifford, who owns the large wooded point of land on which the camp is located, has given the Club a twenty-five year lease on eight acres of ground at a nominal rental. The enthusiasm of members and the large average turn-out for every activity in all kinds of weather has demonstrated conclusively that clubs of this kind are needed and if properly organized will live and render valuable service to the community.

The Omaha Walking Club's activities consist of Saturday afternoon and Sunday outings at the camp. A host or hostess is always in charge to serve coffee and collect a ten cent camp fee. It is necessary for everyone to walk at least four

miles through the woods over hills to reach the camp and return to automobile or street car. The activities at the camp consist of volley ball, tennis, horse-shoe pitching, with canoeing and swimming in summer and skating in winter.

In addition to the activities at the camp, the Omaha Walking Club conducts an organized walk every Sunday from September 15th to June 15th. Three of the walks each month cover from six to eight miles in the afternoon with a camp fire and hot coffee in the woods. One Sunday each month the Club takes an all-day outing covering about fifteen miles.

The special events of the year at the camp consist of an annual chicken dinner, a hallowe'en party, a Thanksgiving breakfast, and a Christmas tree for children who live in the country near the camp.

Every year the Club promotes a two weeks' mountain outing and some years a lake outing also.

The Club charges \$2.00 annual dues which pay the cost of publishing a bi-monthly bulletin, a year book, and other necessary printed matter. The ten cent fee collected on walks and at the camp buys the coffee, cream and sugar and pays for equipment and repairs.

The Club's attendance at the camp is more than forty-eight hundred per year, or an average of one hundred per week. The attendance on Sunday walks is one thousand per year or an average of about twenty for each walk. The attendance on mountain and lake outings ranges from fifteen to twenty-five.

No hike or outing is ever postponed on account of weather.



PERMANENT LODGE OF THE CLUB

For the Girls and Women of South Carolina

By

BLANCHE TARRANT

*District Home Demonstration Agent, Greenwood,
South Carolina*

During the summer of 1925, six hundred and forty-five Home Demonstration Club girls, of South Carolina, under the leadership of their County Home Demonstration Agents, attended camps of from three to five days duration.

The camps are held in the Piedmont district of South Carolina at places most centrally located and best fitted for the girls' pursuits. There is only one county in the district that has a building erected for camp purposes. This is Pickens Camp, for which A. P. Chastine gave twenty-three acres of mountain property for the use of the 4-H Club members of his county. By various gifts buildings costing \$5,000 have been erected and here the boys and girls enjoyed their first days of camp last summer.

Other counties are using buildings which they find adequate within their own counties.

Before being admitted to the camp, each club girl is required to have her work projects completed to date. To keep the girls busy at work or play, programs are planned to occupy every moment of the time from six-thirty in the morning until ten at night.

A variety of articles have been made by each girl to carry home, including a reed basket, dresser scarf, collar and cuff set, towels, handkerchiefs or illustrative booklets of club work.

At each camp an honor contest was held to simplify camp discipline. Every day each girl made on her honor the answer *yes* or *no* to the following questions and ribbons were awarded to the club answering *yes* to all questions.

Were you quiet after bedtime?

Were you quiet before rising bell?

Did you brush your teeth today?

Did you drink the milk served?

Did you leave off tea and coffee?

Did you eat vegetables served?

Were you kind to others?

Have you joined in all songs and games?

The greatest value of the club camp to the girls is that it teaches cooperative play. The girls make great efforts to attend camp. Some few

are so fortunate as to reach camp riding in a closed car, but many girls will walk several miles to catch a ride with a neighbor who is taking his daughter over in the wagon. The most unusual method was seen, though, when Stella Bowen rode eight miles on a mule across the mountain to reach the camp. Her young brother rode the same mule with her, and took the mule back home. He returned three days later to take Stella home from camp.

Does a camp mean much to the club girl? The greatest proof is that they will attend again next year and persuade their friends to come, too, for each year the enrollment gets larger and larger.

Play Parties for Farm Women

Farm women of Cokesbury, South Carolina, have realized the value of recreation in their community life and each Friday evening during the summer of 1925 they arranged a play party on the school grounds, inviting the entire community.

These women caught this inspiration while engaged in Home Demonstration Club work, under the leadership of their Home Agent, Miss Louise Fleming. A period of recreation is given by Miss Fleming at each meeting of her Home Demonstration Club.

Miss Fleming was present at the first recreation meeting held at Cokesbury, and had charge of the games, songs and stunts put on by the people of Cokesbury Community. Later the work was assigned to a local committee. The fun was so great that local people took complete charge, holding their meetings regularly from June to September.

All the games of the country were tried out. Books and magazines were also studied in search for new ones. The most popular activity was the Virginia Reel for which music was furnished by an old-time fiddler. Second in popularity came the relay races, while singing games were always gayly entered into.

The average attendance at these play parties was seventy-five. This group was composed of men, women and children; and everybody played!

The spirit of play has gone abroad to other rural communities of the county and play parties have also been held at Phoenix, Durst and Kirksey. On Hallowe'en practically every rural community in Greenwood County celebrated the occasion with a party.

In addition to the enjoyment they give the in-

dividual, play parties are enabling the farm women to find out how much they like their neighbors and are being of great value in all matters of cooperation.

Boyology—A New and All-Important Study

The guiding of boys in the proper direction is a subject which needs study today. Brother Barnabas, of New Haven, Conn., is one who has given a great deal of thought to this subject and is recognized as one of the foremost experts on boy life. Pittsburgh men, through the Knights of Columbus, have recently been given a unique opportunity to take a course, under the supervision of this expert, on this all-important work of moulding good upright, honest and God-fearing citizens out of the boys of the United States. Two hundred and fifty Pittsburgh men—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish—took advantage of it. This course on Boyology, as it is called, lasted ten days and Brother Barnabas gathered about him for faculty, some of the most highly trained and successful men in boy work, including C. J. Atkinson of the International Boys' Club Federation; Roland Sheldon of the Big Brothers' Federation; Roger Motten of the Woodcraft League of America; A. T. Benson, Boy Scout Executive; James Lodge of the Boys' Club Federation; W. C. Batchelor, Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Recreation, and Sidney Teller, director of the Irene Kauffman Settlement, Pittsburgh. The topics which were discussed in the course included Boys' Rights and Man's Duty; The Layman's Place in Boyology; Dividends in Boyology; The Under-Privileged Boy; Scouting and Its Method of Training; Character Building and Citizenship Training; Older Boy Programs; Nature Study and Its Necessity to Boy Life, and A Healthy Body and Mind.

This course is a part of the nation-wide movement of the Knights of Columbus toward the welfare of the youth of the nation. The movement is an important one, having the approval of the bishops of America, and was instituted by the Knights of Columbus at their invitation. Brother Barnabas has been their consultant in entering this new field of activity. A chair of Boy Guidance has been founded at Notre Dame University and a scholarship provided for each archdiocese where

the order exists in the United States, Canada, Cuba and the Philippines.

Speaking at a luncheon at the close of the Asheville Recreation Congress, Brother Barnabas said:

"Eight million boys on the streets of America are drifting—are growing up as spineless, effeminate 'cake-eaters'; because of a lack of real leadership.

"There is a certain moment in every boy's life, by God's own plan, when he seeks out a male to reproduce within himself, and the normal man is the father.

"When the industrial age swept fathers out of boys' lives and into industry, the schoolmaster was substituted for a time, a male schoolmaster, but we have since become so commercialized that we have not placed the proper value upon his services, throwing him also into industry, putting a woman teacher in his place and forcing the boy of America to seek that masculine model for his life on the streets and in the alley.

"There the boy finds the wrong model, he does not deliberately turn criminal, but all that is masculine in his nature revolts at the feminism of the schoolroom and he seeks out his ideal in the 'tough guy' not from choice but because of blind instinct. The result is that one boy in every 14 is arrested and we are placing 65,000 new laws on the statute books every year to try to handle them."

The Fourth Agency

Everyone knows the home, the school, the church. Soon everyone will also know the leisure time agency which helps train boys and others in the right use of leisure time.

At one time the school was still a part of the church. Then the problem of the education of the child became so insistent that a special institution came into existence to meet the need and the school has now become one of the few great institutions of the world.

Recently the human family has entered a new epoch. The machine age has come in with its automobiles, with its great ocean liners, the flying machines, with our great electric inventions and our many great modern inventions, doing the work of the world through machinery. This new revolution in industry and commerce has made necessary for society a fourth great institution, one that shall train for the use of leisure. Side by side with the parent, the minister, the teacher, is now the leisure time leader or director.

Recreation and the Labor Unions

The Park and Recreation program of Westchester County, New York, received the solid endorsement of the fifty-two unions comprising the Westchester County Labor Council, when it was unanimously decided that the unions would cooperate with the County Recreation Commission in its efforts to bring all possible opportunities for recreation closer to the wage earner. Each of the fifty-two unions has appointed its own committee to further recreational development.

Music the First Development

The first approach will be through music and a program has been launched by Mrs. Chester G. Marsh, Director of the Westchester County Recreation Commission, to invite foreign born groups to take part in the annual musical festival which will be held in White Plains next May. The Commission is also urging that not only labor unions but the numerous brotherhood organizations join in developing separate choral groups to participate in the festival. In this connection, Secretary of Labor Davis, who is keenly interested in the development of music as a means of self expression, has written the following letter to Mrs. Eugene Meyer, Chairman of the Westchester County Recreation Commission:

"I am glad to know that you are going to follow up the suggestion of enlisting the various fraternal orders in the Choral Movement in Westchester County. As I told you a few days ago, the Choral Movement will be of great value not only to Westchester County but to any county.

"Music is the only universal language. Music should have its place in the calculations of every business, big and little, in America, for this great force and factor makes for the happiness and contentment of the workers and for the harmony and fellow-feeling of the producers, both employers and employed, and brings into play that very essential condition which creates rhythm and harmony in our workaday world. If industrial leaders generally realized the psychology of music—the Americanizing, the humanizing, the energizing influence of it—the music period would have its definite place in every day's activities. For the real secret of success in any business is contented, satisfied, willing workers—and music regularly brought into the daily life is the greatest and most effective influence in creating such helpers.

"I would so develop music in the community that

I would have a musical instrument of some kind in every home, and I would have every child taught to play, sing and know music. For music makes for better citizenship. It will drive out envy and hate which do so much to poison the well-springs of our life. Wherever people gather together, I would have music, for it brings happiness and contentment.

"The thought of these things inspires me to look forward to the day when America, a mighty host—a hundred million strong, will face the world with a song upon its lips, and a vast chorus, sweeping from the Atlantic to the Pacific will weld the nation into one great force for world good and happiness and peace."

Drama Development

The drama movement is of special concern to the labor unions because Brookwood, the Labor College at Katonah, has just begun a demonstration of stage-craft and acting whereby it is hoped to show how the recreation life of the industrial communities may be greatly enriched at small expense through the efforts of the workers themselves and their families. The various dramatic organizations in the country have called upon the Recreation Commission to organize a little theater tournament which will take place in April, and it is hoped that many new groups will be formed to compete for honors in playwriting, acting and staging.

Outdoor Sports

Another means of providing recreation opportunity for Westchester County wage earners will come through the Westchester County Athletic Association recently organized under the leadership of Frank S. Marsh. This Association will give a wide and varied opportunity for outdoor sports, cross country running, basketball, baseball, track meets and other forms of athletic activity.

The Recreation Commission will also cooperate with the labor unions in the development of the summer program for additional playgrounds, children's camps, family camps and the greater use of the parks through walking clubs and camping expeditions.

The progressiveness of a city may be measured largely by its parks and recreational facilities, for these are the expression of the aspirations of the community beyond the purely material and obviously necessary things.

—From City Plan for El Paso, Texas

What Do Boys and Girls Like?

Several thousand girls and boys on the playgrounds of the South Park Commission of Chicago were recently furnished with ballots listing 150 different sports and leisure time activities, all in vogue in the south parks, with the request that they check off those that they like, sign their names and state their ages.

Some very interesting and surprising results were secured. The ten- and eleven-year-old girls agreed that nothing is so much fun as marching; with the ten-year-olds the movies came third; with the eleven-year-olds second and with the twelve-year-olds first, while in this last instance marching dropped from the top of the column to fourteenth place.

The first five choices of the ten-year-olds were marching, swimming, movies, parties and roller-skating; of the eleven-year-olds marching, movies, gymnasium, dancing, swimming and parties; of the twelve-year-olds movies, parties, reading, volleyball and swimming.

The game of checkers is more popular at eleven than at either ten or twelve. Cooking is ninth at ten years, just above O'Leary, eighth at eleven and sixth at twelve, where it came between swimming and roller-skating. The twelve-year-olds have no place in their first thirty choices for dressmaking, although the ten-year-olds put it fifteenth and the eleven-year-olds twenty-fourth.

The ten-year-old boys gave the five honor places to football, baseball, movies, marbles and tops; eleven-year-olds to baseball, football, swimming, marbles and movies; the twelve-year-olds to swimming, football, movies, baseball and skating.

While swimming went down with advancing years among the girls, it went up among the boys, being sixth at ten, third at eleven and first at twelve.

Reading received its highest vote at eleven, but was then lower than at any age among the girls—ninth place. Radio made its appearance as twenty-eighth at eleven and moved up to twenty-sixth at twelve.

"Such tabulations as these," says the *Chicago Post* of December eighth, "have their significance for students of child psychology. They indicate clearly that childhood is in a period of changes in more than physical growth and that educational methods to be effective must take note of the varying accents in child interest."

A Notable Development for the Colored Citizens of Orangeburg, S. C.

The playground for colored people at Orangeburg, provided through the joint efforts of the local people and a gift of the Harmon Foundation, is an excellent example of the enterprise of colored citizens. Including the Harmon Foundation gift of \$2,000 and free labor on the part of the colored citizens estimated at \$800, total receipts to date have been \$4,619.46. The Committee has been so enthusiastic over developing the property that they have incurred a debt of over \$1,300, making a total expense of almost \$6,000.

The colored people have transformed this spot of weed land into a garden. Artesian water supplies the sunken garden and the wading pool. The State College of Agriculture plants the ground and the students cultivate it. About half an acre is given over to the raising of canna, asters and other flowers. Another half acre, fenced with barbed wire, contains the home-made playground equipment of see-saws, ladders, slides and one long smooth log about two feet above the ground which the children call the wooden horse. The log is sustained by two supports near the end and the long body hanging between has sufficient freedom to swing from side to side or up and down whenever sufficient weight rests upon it. There is also a "flying Jenny" or old-fashioned merry-go-round on the playground.

A refreshment booth has been built with material donated by merchants in the lumber industry. A large pavilion sheltering perhaps one-fourth of an acre has been framed and raftered with native logs cut from a clump of trees on one corner of the playground. It is being roofed with corrugated galvanized iron. This pavilion is intended to shelter the picnics and assemblies of colored people of the entire county, who are already using this playground as their social center.

Worcester Reports

The annual report of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners of Worcester, Massachusetts, which has just appeared, shows an increase not only in activities and in attendance, but in physical facilities. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners have made a valuable addition to the city's recreation facilities in the purchase of eight

acres of land for playground purposes, the first purchase of this nature since 1912. The cost of the property was \$20,000 and of this amount \$12,831.22 was donated from revenue received by the Food Commission. The amount represents the balance left over from a portion of the Food Commission receipts following the war, which the commission voted to use for playground purposes.

A new bath-house at Lake Park has just been completed and a second bath-house has been constructed at Crompton Park which will make swimming possible both summer and winter. The building is of brick construction equipped with sanitariums, shower baths and electric lights and with a hot water heating system. Eight showers with slate partitions combined with dressing rooms have been placed in the women's section of the building and are so arranged that they are entirely separate from the general public which may desire to use the lavatories. The men's section contains one large room with seven shower heads and a large dressing room with eighty steel lockers. It is planned to charge a small fee for the use of the towels and soap which will pay for the cost of these articles, possibly leaving a small revenue to help pay for the additional labor necessary to maintain the bath houses.

Other recreation facilities include 27 tennis courts, 20 regulation baseball diamonds, 14 picnic groves, 5 bathing beaches, 3 community houses, public golf course, toboggan chutes, skating and coasting areas.

Paddle Tennis

E. W. Johnson, Superintendent of Playgrounds, St. Paul, Minnesota, writes: "The game of paddle tennis has been given a very thorough trial in our year-round recreation centers and we have found it to be a very popular game, particularly for indoors. It has been in such demand that a team is limited to one day's play a week in order to accommodate the number of teams desiring to play. Leagues have been formed which are playing off regular schedules.

"The game itself offers great encouragement for the real game of tennis which is one of our master sports out-of-doors and we find that the girls and boys from ten to fifteen years of age are very desirous of trying their skill in the league games.

"Next season we expect to purchase many more sets so as to use them on all of our summer playgrounds."

Rules for Pin Ball

AS PLAYED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

L. R. Burnett, M.D., Superintendent, Board of Recreation, supplies the following rules:

This game is an adaptation of basketball to a space where goals are not available or low ceilings prevent their use. It can be played on short notice in a school or factory yard.

The official rules for basketball shall apply (men using men's rules, women using women's rules), except where differing from the following special rules:

Goal Pins

The goals shall consist of two upright bowling pins or Indian Clubs, placed in the center of each half of the playing space.

Court Markings

Around each pin shall be two circles chalked or painted on the floor, one being the "guard circle," four feet in diameter, the other a striking circle, twelve feet across. A center line divides the field in halves.

Teams

A team shall have six players for match games and must wear a distinctive color such as a ribbon sash. There are three forwards and three guards. The three players of a team who start in each half of the court may not cross the center division line during play without penalty of a foul. To start the game, the referee tosses the ball at center of court between a guard of each team.

Scoring

Two points are scored each time a team succeeds in knocking down the opponents' pin, provided the thrower is outside the striking circle until the throw is completed. Stepping or falling into the outer circle during the throw is not a foul, but no point can be made on the misplay. Each foul, according to basketball rules (men's or women's), counts one point for opponents, as there are no free throws. The game is stopped by the referee for each foul called, the point is awarded and the ball is again brought to the center of court for a toss. The fouls, in addition to those of basketball, are: 1. knocking down a pin by bodily contact; 2. crossing center division line; 3. allowing the ball to come in contact with any

part of the person while player is within own guard circle.

Team Purposes

The objects of the game are 1, to bowl over the opponents' pin with the ball, thus scoring two points; 2, to cause an opponent who is touching ground within the four foot guard circle to touch a thrown ball, thus scoring one point; 3, to keep the ball out of the opponents' possession by passing the ball rapidly to any unguarded partner and then "getting free" by shifting position on the court.

What is an Adequate State Physical Education Program?*

Dr. John Brown of the Physical Education Department of the National Committee Young Men's Christian Association, opened the discussion with a statement that an adequate state physical education program would conceivably be one that would cover not only physical education in the technical sense, but recreation as well; and that such a program might be worked out for the schools by a State Department of Physical Education and for community systems by a State Department of Recreation, if such a body exists. Nearly all the states now have laws making it either permissive or mandatory for schools to do something along this line but comparatively few have set up well organized departments. This is one of the big fields, in Dr. Brown's estimation, where promotion work should be vigorously carried on.

Voluntary associations, it was suggested, can play a great part in the development of state-wide physical education programs and these groups should be utilized by state departments and officials. Voluntary bodies in turn should consider it a part of their function to stimulate state action where opportunity offers.

The discussion following Mr. Brown's introductory remarks brought out the fact that there is a lack of broadly and thoroughly trained individuals able to qualify as state directors of physical education. It should be a function of the training schools to turn out not merely technicians

but administrators and executives. Pedagogical qualifications, too, must be fitted into the picture. It was suggested that here again voluntary agencies sincerely interested in public welfare can play an important part in the development of public understanding of the need of our strenuous age of ample physical education. Only when public sentiment is informed on the whole question will the profession of physical director be properly dignified and salaries made adequate.

The question was brought up of the relation of state departments of physical education to school athletics, particularly to the high school program. High school principals with high ideals for sportsmanship and right ideas regarding the great value inherent in properly conducted athletics, can do much by way of adequate control of the program through the appointment of the best type of athletic director. On the other hand, it was stated, in this day of leagues it is necessary to apply outside control. This can be brought about through joint agreement on standards, sportsmanship, ideals and similar considerations within a league itself. It can also be effected through the influence of state departments of physical education, officially or unofficially applied.

It was clearly recognized that the tremendous and widespread interest in school and college athletics is a great thing for the nation's welfare provided always that the reins of management are held in wise hands to keep out the poison of professionalism, to lift higher the ideals of good sportsmanship in order that the greatest benefits, physical and moral may accrue for the youth of America.



ONE OF THE EVENTS IN THE BICYCLE PARADE—ELMIRA, N. Y.

A difficult feat on a 5-inch board

*Discussion at Section Meeting, Recreation Congress, Asheville, N. C., Oct. 5-10, 1925.

Character Building Values in Recreation Activities*

The interest that has been growing during the past few years in the possibility of determining the values of recreation resulted in the formation a year ago of a committee to make a study of the problem. Roy Smith Wallace, of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, is serving as Chairman of the committee. At the Recreation Congress the committee reported that a questionnaire had been sent to many individuals representing three general groups—practical recreation workers, teachers and psychologists. From the practical workers the few replies received showed a high degree of interest. The replies from the psychologists were most helpful. Nearly all the answers set forth the difficulty in the way of making a thorough-going study of the subject. Scientific methodology, it was pointed out, would have to be worked out, a clear definition of the "concept character" set down and it would be necessary to create favorable conditions for study. Emphasis was laid on the fact that the studies undertaken would have to extend over a considerable period to bring valid results.

The committee reported that a number of noted psychologists were ready either to undertake studies or assist in making them, some of them stating that here might be a field of work for graduate students.

In the discussions that followed the report a number of recreation workers stated that the reason for the apparent lack of enthusiasm on their part was their busy program which permitted of no time for such studies and their lack of equipment for doing research work by themselves. There was also a feeling on the part of the recreation group that such studies required scientific research for which special scientific training is necessary.

Those present were generally agreed as to the real need for such a study, feeling that much might be derived in the way of determining the real value of different types of activities and their adaptation to different types of individuals. It was further recognized that in this period of rapidly changing social and industrial conditions, the values of various activities may also have changed and a new psychology have developed. The point was made that it seems necessary at the present

time for recreation leaders to be fortified with new convictions on the subject of values in order to meet the criticism of devotees of economy. If, for example, the citizenship-building power of athletics can be proved beyond a doubt, then it can be shown that the cry of economy is contrary to the best interests of public welfare.

The discussion closed with the thought that any studies that might be undertaken should enlist the cooperation of scientists and practical recreation workers, the former to bring into play carefully worked out methods and students of the subject to apply them; the latter to furnish the material and the laboratories.

Where the Arts Combine

In the newest of America's outdoor amphitheatres, the Theatre of the Stars, at Fawnskin, near Big Bear Lake, California, there is going on, under the auspices of Arthur Farwell, an experiment in the development of the arts of music and drama and of the growing art of lighting. The theatre is set among boulders and lofty evergreens in a canyon upon the heights of a mountain range. It is lighted below by camp fires and above not only by the stars but by lights of various hues, the colors changing in keeping with the moods of the music. Under these conditions of combined beauty of nature and art concerts are given by excellent artists and musical organizations.

The performances of the Philharmonic Orchestra in the Lewisohn Stadium in New York, the orchestral concerts in Hollywood's famous bowl, the open air concerts in parks everywhere, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, are reaching hundreds of thousands of people, and are increasing America's willingness to listen to good music. Of the thousands who thus capture a new sensation in tremendous proportions a large percentage will later discover the joys of music as experienced in the recital hall, or at the shrine of chamber music.

As a feature of the Municipal Band Concerts held in Baltimore during the summer of 1925, pictorial masterpieces were shown on the screen. The showing of the art works, made possible by the Baltimore Museum of Art, was a part of a general program in which other pictorial features were introduced.

*Discussion at the Twelfth Recreation Congress held at Asheville, North Carolina October 5-10, 1925.

The Story of One Small Community

The town of Millburn, New Jersey, deserves honorable mention for its interesting and well-developed recreation program and the zest with which it is conducted.

The program centers about Taylor Park, a very beautiful development of fourteen acres given the town by Mrs. John Taylor as a memorial to her husband. The town is also fortunate in having received from Mr. Taylor's three children as a further memorial to him an attractive little recreation building and a splendidly equipped playground, both of which are located in the park. In 1924 the assessed valuation of the park, which is under the jurisdiction of the Shade Tree Commission, was \$20,000; in 1925, \$105,000. Among its many delightful features is a large lake used for swimming in summer and skating in winter.

General Park Activities

Baseball is one of the major activities of the park; the whole town is interested in the great national game and has done far more than many larger communities to promote it. There are two active leagues which for some time have been operating. One is the Lackawanna, including teams from near-by communities on the Lackawanna Railroad; the other is the local Twilight League to which many business men belong, and night after night during the summer hotly contested games are played. So keen has the interest become that the park authorities are preparing to build bleachers.

During the summer, late afternoon and early evening hours bring to the park tennis devotees whose enthusiasm is equalled only by that of the baseball fans. Through the cooperation of the business men of the community cups are offered, adding interest to the games and tournaments.

Another town activity which draws many people to the park on summer nights is the band concerts given by the town band. The beautiful background provided by the park adds much to the enjoyment of the music.

On the Playground

In May, 1925, the playground opened for the summer season under the leadership of Miss Mildred Schieber with the assistance of a man to conduct athletic activities. Interest in the proposed program was aroused by short talks given by the director of recreation in all the township schools.

Games of low and high organization were taught and soon the program was well under way. In June leagues and teams were organized in playground ball, baseball, volleyball and other sports, and track and field events held sway. Folk dancing and singing game groups were formed. In July and August when the weather was hottest story hours, sand modeling, wading and handcraft classes came strongly into favor. The sewing class soon became so large that it had to be divided into three classes.

A large sand box allowed a number of children to model at one time and all ages entered the sand modeling contest. It was a surprise to some to discover that the boys were the most interested and displayed the most artistic ability. Wonderful things grew under their hands. The White House at Washington, the Baltusrol golf links, grand old castles with high towers, moats and drawbridges, a scene along the Lackawanna for which the builder brought his own toy trains, and many other ingenious projects were developed.

An art class constituted another form of recreation and the children drew pictures illustrating the stories which the playground director told. *Alice in Wonderland*, *Robinson Crusoe*, the *Round Table of the Knights of King Arthur*, *Mother Goose*, *Aesop's Fables*—all came to life in the pictures, which were gaily colored by the children. Needless to say, these classes were very popular.

And When Fall Came

With the fall season came hockey and aeroplane contests and an exhibition of the summer handcraft work, the organization of football and basketball leagues and of winter clubs in folk dancing, handcraft, dramatics and other activities.

Track and field events, parades and a band concert constituted the exercises planned for the celebration of Labor Day. One of the most interesting events on this occasion was the presentation to the Shade Commission of the new and much desired Recreative House. A doll carriage and express wagon parade was a most spectacular feature. More than seventy children entered this procession and much applause greeted their appearance. A doll was awarded as first prize to a child whose carriage was decorated to represent the *Old Woman in a Shoe* and two boys whose wagon represented a *Pot of Gold* received the first prize in the express wagon competition. At night there was a beautiful lantern parade, after which an excellent band concert was given.

Mother's Day, Fourth of July, Hallowe'en and



RECREATION HOUSE, MILLBURN, N. J.

Thanksgiving did not go without their celebrations. On Mother's Day the children made baskets which they filled with flowers and carried to their mothers; a carnival of games with many contests and track and field events was most successfully conducted on the Fourth of July and games and entertainments made Hallowe'en and Thanksgiving memorable.

But the crowning event of all came at Christmas! First toy making clubs and special hand-craft classes were formed to make toys for Christmas. Then came the Christmas caroling, the community Christmas tree and the presentation of a Christmas mystery play, *The Gift of the Children* by the Playground Dramatic Club. A great part of the lovely background and setting for the play, the stable, manger and Bethlehem scene were built by the playground children with the assistance of their older brothers, fathers and friends. At the request of parents and friends of the children the performance was repeated in January. Besides all this time was found for skating, coasting and other winter sports.

Making it Year-Round

So great has been the enthusiasm over the summer playground that the director has been retained for the remainder of the year and Millburn with its splendid record of accomplishments has been added to the list of communities having a year-round program and worker. Millburn, according to the census report, numbers not more than 3000 people, but the community wisely believes that the appropriation of funds for a program of character-developing, citizenship-building activities is a wise expenditure. And the results are more than justifying this belief!

May Day in the Schools and Playgrounds

"The year's at the spring
The day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn
God's in his heaven
All's right with the world."

—from *Pippa Passes* by Robert Browning

The real origin of May Day seems to have been the Roman Floralia. This celebration was given in honor of Flora, the goddess of fertility in Rome in the year 248 B.C. The gay costumes and dramatic performances which were a part of the Floralia are repeated in the masques, pageants and folk dances and plays which comprise the May Day celebrations of today.

In the medieval May festival it was the custom for the young men of the village to go to the woods early in the morning and fetch the tallest and straightest tree that could be found. This was stripped of its boughs, decorated with garlands and ribbons and planted in the public green where it became the center of dances and games. In England, the story of Robin Hood has ever been connected with May Day festivals. America has never quite experienced the delights of the old May Day festivals of England. This perhaps is due to the horror and displeasure which our Pilgrim fathers expressed at the first attempt of Morton and his irresponsible followers to establish at Merymount an old world May festival. (See Hawthorne—*Twice Told Tales*.)

The delightful old May Day customs such as hanging the May basket on the first night of May are fast dying out but formal May Day celebrations are becoming more popular with schools and colleges. An out-of-door setting is the ideal one for a May Day program. However, as the weather will not always permit of this, less pretentious programs should be encouraged for class room presentation. The following simple plays, songs, dances, recitations and piano selections are suggested as suitable for grade students:

SPRING SONGS

Cornish May Song (Folk-Song)

Maypole Dance (17th Century English Folk-Song)

Come Again, Beautiful Spring (French Folk-Song; duet for two sopranos)

Apple Blossoms (Unison Song or Trio for two sopranos)

Spring Is Here (Polish Air; unison or duet for soprano and alto)

The above mentioned songs have been selected from the JUNIOR LAUREL SONGS by M. Teresa Armitage, published by C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts. Price \$1.00; Teachers' Edition \$3.00.

A May Song (M. S. No. 18)—Trio for two sopranos and alto. Price \$.10

Summer Showers (S. S. No. 157)—Unison Song; range from C to D. Price \$.06

Swinging (S. S. No. 118)—Unison Song; range from D to F. Price \$.06

The above three may be obtained from The H. W. Gray Company, 159 East 48th Street, New York City.

POEMS FOR MAY DAY

When Tulips Bloom by Henry Van Dyke

The Idle Shepherd Boys by William Wordsworth

The Green Linnet by William Wordsworth

The Daffodils (I wandered lonely as a cloud) by William Wordsworth

The Mayflowers by John Greenleaf Whittier.

The trailing arbutus or mayflower was the first flower that greeted the Pilgrims after their fearful winter.

PIANO SELECTIONS

In the Spring by Theodor Oesten. Price \$.20 (Very elementary.)

Birds in the Orchard by Cadman. Price \$.27

In Springtime by Manney. Price \$.35

In the Rose Garden by Geibel. Price \$.35 (Rather difficult)

The above selections, publications of the Oliver Ditson Company, 179 Tremont Street, Boston, Massachusetts, are but a few of many "pieces" which may be used for a spring program.

VOCAL DANCES

Woodland Voices—Minuet

Hey-Ho-Hey—Polka

In Rich Clusters—Waltz

Spring Song—Schottische

The Ferry—Gavotte

Youth—Waltz

The above numbers are contained in SIX VOCAL DANCES by Arthur Richards. These May-time songs, tuneful and comparatively simple, may be sung by a selected group or by the school chorus.

They need not be presented in sequence but may be used separately on a general May-Day program. Each song is accompanied by its respective dance, illustrated by one or two couples. Published by The H. W. Gray Company, 159 East 48th Street, New York. Price of entire collection \$.30; price of individual songs purchased in octavo form, \$.08 to \$.12 per copy.

PLAYS AND OPERETTAS

King of Sherwood by Ivy Bolton. An unusual Robin Hood dramatization. The important part played by Balaam, the Tinker's ass, affords a great deal of comedy. Suitable for seventh and eighth grade students. 8 boys, 2 girls, extras. Woman's Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York, price 50c

The First May Basket from A Child's Book of Holiday Plays by Frances Gillespy Wickes. This is a whimsical and delightful little play in two short scenes, both of which can be given out-of-doors, or indoors if desired. There are children and dryads and fairies and wood creatures in this play and very pretty dances may be introduced. The whole play breathes an atmosphere of spring. 25 boys and girls. Plays 30 minutes. The Mac-Millan Company, 64 Fifth Avenue, New York, price 80c

Little John and the Miller Join Robin Hood's Band by Perry Boyer Corneau. 1 act, 1 exterior scene. A Robin Hood play for boys. 7 speaking parts with any number of extras. Suitable for fifth and sixth grade students. Old Tower Press, 59 E. Adams Street, Chicago, Ill., price 35c

A Pageant of Flowers by Elsie C. Baker and Richard Kountz. A charming operetta for children introducing flowers, rainclouds and sunbeams. The music is very simple, exceedingly catchy and particularly suited to young children's voices. No elaborate scenery is required and the costuming may consist of simple white dresses or dresses of delicate tints. Runs about twenty minutes. Published by Theodore Presser Company, 1712 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., price 40c

Cinderella in Flower Land by Marion Loder. An attractive May Day operetta for children consisting of four short acts—exterior scenes. There are eight principal characters, all of which are flowers, and as many extras as desired. Tells the

story of Cinderella who in this case is the Daisy; the lost slipper is the Lady's Slipper. Music is simple, tuneful and bright. Published by Oliver Ditson Company, 179 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., price 50c

A list of plays, pageants and festivals suitable for older groups may be obtained from the Playground and Recreation Association of America, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

FOR APRIL HOLIDAYS

Arbor Day Ceremonial by Nina Lamkin, price 15c

Easter Suggestions, including list of plays and pageants, free

These may be secured from the P. R. A. A.

Federation of Mothers' Clubs Glee Club

At the October meeting of the Council of the Federation of Mothers' Clubs, Will R. Reeves, Executive Secretary of Cincinnati Community Service, presented a plan for the organization of a Federation Glee Club. The Council voted its unanimous approval and empowered the President, Mrs. H. E. Caldwell, to appoint a committee of five to work out with Mr. Reeves a method of organization and to submit its findings to the individual mothers' clubs within the Federation.

A letter explaining the plan and a questionnaire were mailed to every Mothers' Club in Hamilton County. The members of the committee followed this up with telephone calls to the president of the Mothers' Clubs that had failed to respond, and in late November a follow-up letter was sent out.

The Committee now announces that forty-two clubs have sent in filled out questionnaires and elected more than 170 singing delegates to the Glee Club. From the tabulated report the club will be an exceedingly well-balanced body consisting of about 55 first-sopranos, 55 second-sopranos and 60 altos. Rehearsals are held in the auditorium of the Y. W. C. A. each Monday afternoon at two o'clock.

The music has been selected and it is planned to give a public concert sometime in late April.

Mr. Reeves will direct the Club.

Eight-to-Twelve Boys and the Boy Ranger Idea

By

EDWARD F. REIMER

National Executive Secretary Boy Rangers of America

The neglected period of American boyhood is the strategic point of time between the eighth and the twelfth years. At a recent national conference of leaders interested in work with boys a great deal was said of juvenile delinquency but no consideration was given to the boy under scout age. Boys become men pretty fast these days and the general information of the younger boy today is far in advance of that of his father and his grandfather of similar age. It would appear a mark of wisdom, therefore, to keep our eyes on these younger boys, not wait until they are twelve and over, and to work with them in the plastic period before the scout age.

A joyous safeguard for the junior boy has been found in the Boy Rangers of America. This is a character building organization, founded on Indian lore and dealing with the junior boy from eight to twelve. The heart of the Ranger idea is just this,—the boy plays Indian and builds character as he plays.

If you go back to the day when you were an eight-to-twelve boy you will remember how the walls of your picture gallery were jeweled with the deeds of the early pioneer days, with the Indian and the White Man at home in the trackless forest, blazing fresh trails through untrodden wilds and uncannily skilled with arrow and with gun.

The boy of Ranger age does not go back to that stirring pageantry of the Redman in the woods. He just naturally *is* there,—physically and psychologically. A few of the simple trappings of the Indian,—eagle feathers, beads, tom-toms,—with fascinating, and equally simple felt insignia costing a few pennies,—are the properties of the stage on which he plays. But the striking thing of it all is that almost mysteriously and magically he copies the elementally fine things in the Indian's life, and quietly and surely builds character as he plays.

I am not certain that I can say just how being a Boy Ranger makes for character, but the possible

progression from Papoose to Brave, to Hunter and then to Warrior, pushes the boy through successive tests and attainments. The secret initiation (to which his parents are invited) stirs his fancy. The Great Laws, hung on the walls of the bedrooms of hundreds of boys, challenge him to his daily good turn. The parades of the boys in uniform (the uniform is optional) with the swaying folds of the Ranger flag before his eyes, carrying the figure of Daniel Boone with his long rifle and his coon-skin cap, help to manly bearing; and with that manly bearing that boy's soul straightens up, too. But underneath it all there is the dream of one man, Emerson Brooks, the founder of the Boy Rangers of America, who has seen his own Lodge No. 1, of Montclair, N. J., in continuous and enthusiastic existence for the past twelve years, and has witnessed the Boy Rangers grow in local organizations in forty-seven states as well as in a number of foreign countries.

Scores of organizations sponsor Boy Ranger lodges in churches, public schools, settlements, men's and boys' clubs, boy scout councils, and various other groups. The illustration given herewith is from the cover of a twelve page "Coast to Coast" folder, which gives a bird's-eye view of the impression the Boy Ranger movement has made from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and which is available on request to the National Headquarters of the movement, 186 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The increasing mechanization and urbanization of life are the great factors which make parks and playgrounds and other recreational provisions imperative. It may be that we shall yet come to believe that our great cities are only a great mistake and that the true solution of our problem is to return to the more simple, rational life of the countryside, where everyone will have sunlight and fresh air and room to dig and plant and hew, with common greens as of old, for communal games and festivals. I believe this is the view that the best town planners in this country are coming to hold and they are, therefore, recommending the development of the small satellite city and the scattering of population. It may be that this is the true crux of the question, the direction in which we should look for permanent relief. We have been inclined to look upon our huge cities with pride as an indication of prosperity, but we must remember that while business prosperity is a question of money, true progress is a question of men. There is only one viewpoint upon which we should view every question, and this is its relation to life. "The building up of a civilization," says Geo. W. Russell, "is at once the noblest and most practical of all enterprises, but the chief bricks are men." Without healthy-minded and healthy-bodied men we shall do nothing.

W. W. CORY,

Deputy Minister, Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, Canada



FROM "BOYS' GAMES AMONG THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS" (STORY). COURTESY E. P. DUTTON & Co.

Mother Nature's Invitation

CONDUCTED BY

WILLIAM G. VINAL

New York State College of Forestry

THE EVOLUTION OF A PLAYGROUND

Being A True Story

Rock hills, marshes and steep valleys are avoided by early settlers. They choose the flood plains and level stretches for tillage. As the settlement grows the clearings become divided into farms, next homesteads and finally house lots. Suddenly the populace discovers that it is a city without breathing space. Then comes the inevit-



"GOD MADE"

Taken late fall 1911 (Rhode Island Arbor Day Booklet)

able. The rock hill is used for a park, the marsh reclaimed for a boulevard and the valley filled up for a playground.

Knowing these steps—and being fully aware that history repeats itself—it would seem better to plan ahead and dedicate recreation areas at the start. This theme has often justified an article on playground development.

A second reason for this writing is that it may be suggestive to those competing for the awards of the Harmon Foundation in the national contest for playground beautification. The judges have decided that not only a written record must be kept but that "Progress" photographs must be submitted. This story is told by the use of such progress photographs.

Picture number one was taken in the late fall of 1911. It shows a valley receiving the tin can tokens of civilization. The steep valley and marsh often become the "dump heap" of the city. Ferns give way to the Jimson Weed, grey squirrels to rats, mosses to ashes, and a clear, cool brook to a muddy stream. The perfume of the hemlock is supplanted by the stench of the "dump". The clatter of the English starling and the sparrow are substituted for the tap of the downy woodpecker and the songs of the warblers. Stop for a year and nature will nearly heal the scar on the landscape but the waste-stream of a city into a "dump" never ceases until the "cup is overflowing." And what bitter dregs are in the cup! The march of civilization—that is, civilization as we know it today—with its uncanny can-opener—is bound to conquer the low places.



"DEVIL MADE"

Taken March 1919

Picture number two shows the site of the old valley. This photograph was taken in March 1919. The same Carolina poplars are shown in the foreground that were there at the opening of the valley. In the background is the "crooked" poplar and its neighboring elm. It may be a case of "rescuing the perishing" for trees do not often stand such decided changes. A few more years and this open area would have been claimed by



"MAN MADE"
Taken a few years later

house dwellers. The last vestige of the former landscape would have been removed forever. Picture number three shows how nearly this happened.

After hearing about the beautification contest as it was outlined at Asheville, I wrote immediately to my good friend, Dr. Marion Weston, of the Rhode Island College of Education, asking her to get a view of the garden as it appears today. She has sent us pictures four and five, and writes: "The shrubbery is so high now that it is impossible to stand where you stood when you took the first pictures." In picture four, however, I can identify



"MAN MADE"
Taken Dec. 3, 1925

a tree shown in picture one and a house which appears in number two. This is a sort of game and I hope that the readers will enjoy playing it. These last pictures in the story were taken on December 3, 1925. I think that you will see why it is important to date your pictures for when I took the first one, fourteen years ago, I little dreamed that it would be the first illustration of the story I have related.

May I make a plea for a greater use of things as they are? The original valley was attractive and would have given more area for play—for are not the two sides of a triangle greater than the third? Here was a natural bird retreat which has now a bird house—a good thing in itself, of course, but why destroy the natural to gain the artificial? This valley was a natural walk and a few years ago might have been made into a pleasing gateway to the park. It could have wound by the brookside where one could enjoy the wild plants. The cost of filling in and grading would easily have purchased the entire valley instead of allowing a large part of it to go to building lots. We want valley parkways; we want distinctive parks. Let us get



ANOTHER VIEW
Taken Dec. 3, 1925

away from the obsession that we must artificialize the entire play areas.

Before the onslaught of the "dump" this beautiful valley was the playground of a little girl. She loved to wade in the clear brook. She would gather mosses and green ferns and make "fairy houses" for her dolls. On warm days she was protected by deep shade. All that she could see or hear in that valley was hers—the elms and the whispering hemlocks, the birds and the squirrels at play, and the first violets of spring. But with the passing of this beautiful valley this little girl too passed on. She was called by the God of the Open Air.

The mother of this little girl believed in the gospel of play. She made it possible for the City of Providence, Rhode Island, to have the Gladys Potter Memorial Gardens. And what a memorial it is! For all time this space says to the community, "Come, and I will give you the green fields, and give it abundantly."

Accidents on Playgrounds

At the convention of the American Institute of Park Executives held in September, 1925, O. W. Douglas presented a report on Accidents on the Playground, prepared from a study made throughout the country. This report appeared in the November-December issue of *Parks and Recreation*.

While it was impossible to secure information from all cities in the country, the reports received represented a total attendance of over 35,000,000 for 1924. The following facts were gleaned from the report:

Total number of accidents reported, 334, or less than 1 to 100,000 in attendance.

Total fatalities, 4, three on apparatus and one in pool.

Accidents on apparatus, 202; accidents in games, 56; in pools, 26; miscellaneous, 50; slides, 41; swings, 44; large lawn swings, 13; ocean waves, 2; giant strides, 4; horizontal ladder, 21; see-saws, 16; teeter ladders, 21; slanting ladders, 14; merry-go-round, 0; horizontal bar, 5; parallel bars, 2; miscellaneous, 19.

Of the fatalities two were on the large fourteen-foot high lawn swing, one on a slide, and the other in a pool by drowning. The four fatalities were reported from two cities—two each.

"The legal phase of accident liability," said Mr. Douglas, "has been the source of some concern among school and park authorities. Without going into detail with reference to a digest of a great many laws and court decisions in many states we may sum up the whole matter briefly by saying that the almost universal trend is toward holding the authorities not liable for accidents except where actual unquestionable negligence can be shown, and then only when defective equipment, or other dangerous conditions, are shown to have been reported to the proper officials and a reasonable time allowed for correcting the condition.

"It is plain that the logical way to reduce accidents to a minimum on the grounds, and be of great assistance to the community in general, is by an intelligent effort along the following lines:

"1. *Inspection*—All equipment should be inspected daily and reports made as to condition. In case of defects the apparatus in question should be removed and made unusable at once until repairs can be made. This care should not only apply to apparatus, but to all other unsafe conditions on the grounds, such as broken glass, stones, rubbish or debris. Since a very large number of accidents, some very serious, happen in connection

with ball games, all bats should be taped and also inspected daily.

"2. *Instruction*—(a) In use of equipment—The right use of each piece of equipment may be taught by means of posters or bulletins and by the instructors or attendants in charge. There is a right and a wrong way to use all kinds of apparatus just as in the case of any other device for general use. Even with this care there will be accidents, but their reduction will indeed be quite evident. (b) In safety on the streets and in the home—On the playgrounds children may be taught not only how to avoid accidents on the grounds but on the streets and in the home as well. An organization of Junior police, or safety committee to patrol dangerous crossings at certain busy hours, has proved successful where given a trial."

Summer Session Announcement

Dr. I. O. Foster, Director of the Summer Session of Battle Creek College, Battle Creek, Michigan, announces as a part of the Summer Session of the institution for the coming year a plan that may be of interest to some of our readers. An opportunity is given to a number of professors who have attained national reputation or who have made distinctive contributions to the various fields of education to spend their summer at Battle Creek College, vacationing in the "Little Lake District" of Michigan and to receive all expenses and free treatment from the Battle Creek Sanitarium in return for the teaching of one or two classes in the College. A few positions still remain unfilled.

A second interesting feature is that unusual opportunity is offered to the teachers, both in public and private schools, to take advantage of the great opportunities offered them at the Battle Creek Sanitarium and to attend college at the same time at a combined expense practically no greater than that charged by the average educational institution. The modern summer camp for girls situated on an island in beautiful Gull Lake offers an added attraction for a pleasant and profitable summer.

Another interesting project relates to school administration. The College is undertaking to offer simultaneously both an eight-weeks' term and a six-weeks' term to its patrons, the former beginning June 24th, and the latter July 8th, both closing August 17th.

The Negro Church and Recreation

The February issue of the *Southern Workman* contains a significant article on the attitude of the Negro church toward recreation, the facts for which were secured from a questionnaire sent leading churchmen of various denominations in different parts of the country.

While football, baseball and sports of various kinds are largely accepted and to some degree promoted by the church, the report shows dancing is very generally frowned upon in most instances. One element of the church feels that it is not its business to amuse people, but the progressive element again thinks that "it is a social institution and believes it should encourage and promote playgrounds, ball teams, track sports and dramatic clubs that offer Christian drama, oratorios and cantatas. It believes that orchestras, bands, and social literary and debating clubs should also be organized.

"None of the denominations are adequately reaching the young people. In the large cities it is said that boys and girls in their teens are crowding the doors of places that offer worldly amusements seeking recreation and relaxation. This condition exists largely because the Church has left to the world the making of provision for the play life of our young people.

"The most encouraging thing about the attitude of the Negro Church toward amusements and recreations is that within the ministry there are developing men with a social vision. Their number is small but it is increasing. These men are developing the institutional church idea among Negroes."



The Question Box

QUESTION: What song books with music suitable for use in rural districts are available at a price not to exceed twenty-five cents?

ANSWER: In response to your inquiry, please find below list of song books which give both words and music and are suitable for use in rural districts. The cost in no case exceeds twenty-five cents.

1. TWICE 55 COMMUNITY SONGS NO. 1. C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.—15 cents.

2. TWICE 55 COMMUNITY SONGS NO. 2. C. C. Birchard & Co., 221 Columbus Ave., Boston, Mass.—25 cents.

3. 101 BEST SONGS. Cable Co., 1100 Cable Bldg., Chicago, Ill.—10 cents.

4. GOLDEN BOOK OF FAVORITE SONGS. Hall & McCreary Co., 430 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.—20 cents.

5. GRAY BOOK OF FAVORITE SONGS. Hall & McCreary Co., 430 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.—20 cents.

6. STEGER SONG BOOK. Steger & Sons, Steger Bldg., Chicago, Ill.—10 cents.

QUESTION: During the Christmas season I saw a very lovely Nativity play. Blue curtains of unusual color formed the background of the stage and added great beauty and dignity to the play. Could you tell me where I might obtain curtain material of this kind?

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Q. I have heard that pine needles may be used in handcraft. How is this done?

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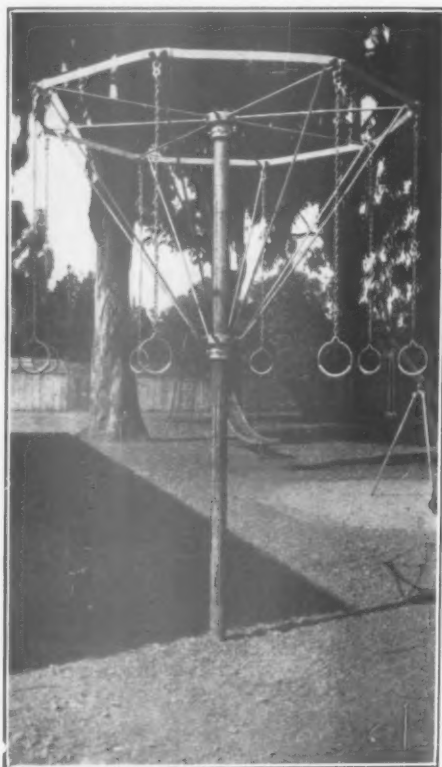
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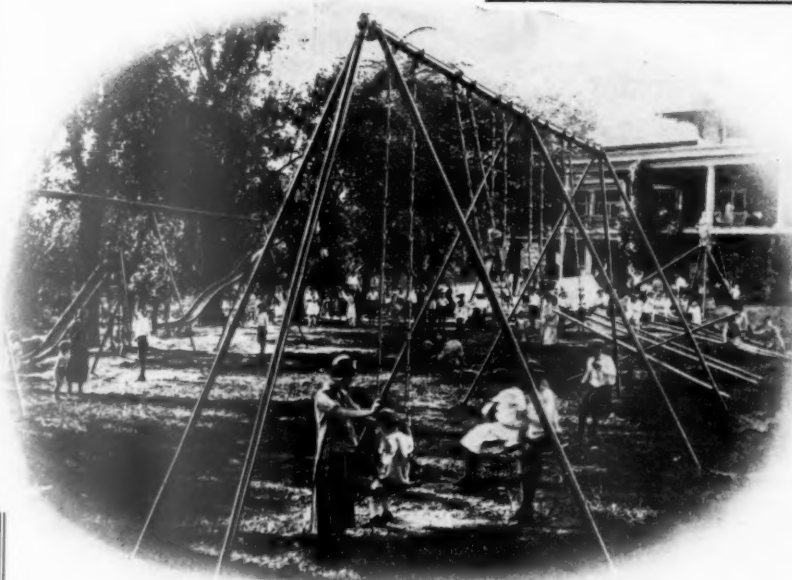
sary). Bunches of four or five long pine needles hanging down are grouped together around the cup and bound with raffia. Rows of raffia are stitched in and out until the bottom of the cup is reached. At this point the pine needles are fastened together with a pine cone. If it is not possible to secure pine needles in your part of the country, they may be secured from the George Home for Feeble Minded at Augusta, Georgia, where the boys and girls make an income from collecting and selling needles by the pound.

Q. How are antique picture frame effects secured?

A. With liquid glue diluted with water, paste the picture in position with a wooden back or compo board and around it nail four tiny molding strips. Over this mold with clay and if desired, add clay motifs outside. Paint the entire frame with radiator gilt. With brown or amber oil paint over the whole surface. Let this remain for a few seconds and wipe off with a cloth to secure the antique effect. Add color (oil paint) predominating in picture. Where it is desired for the gilt to show through, wipe off the color. To give the picture a very antique effect, add while wet antique powder which may be secured from any art shop, and blow off.

Q. Do you consider that model aeroplanes are practical as a handcraft activity?

A. This is an age of air and it is important to interest boys and girls in aeronautics. There are tremendous educational values in making aeroplanes, for which the best wood to use is balsa wood from South America. This is so soft that it can almost be molded with the hands. The construction of model aeroplanes is becoming increasingly popular. In a recent contest in Chicago 350 boys had their self-made models in the air at one time.



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At the Conventions

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Society was held in New York City December 28-31st, 1925.

On the opening day the central topic was *The City* and many of the papers were devoted to community topics. Clarence A. Perry of the Recreation Department of the Russell Sage Foundation presented a paper of special interest to community workers, suggesting ways of determining the needs of a local neighborhood along the lines of schools, recreation, marketing and transportation and of planning for these needs in the development of housing projects.

The section on Rural Sociology, more than ever before, was stimulated along the lines of research, and into the meeting came a great deal more insistence on social work. The section on Sociology of Religion proved more popular than at its inception last year in Chicago. Here, as in the Rural Section, research was urged.

The Community Organization Section opened with a discussion of the forum, the general impression being that the forum method of discussion is growing rapidly all over the country with forums in public schools increasing in number.

The term "open forum," it was stated, is not in favor and experts on forums were agreed that less provocative ways of announcing topics have been developed along with more freedom in the discussion of topics.

The discussion on Indigenous Community Groups led to one of the most interesting debates of the entire Conference, certain workers arguing against the value of the boys' gang and the nationality grouping, others feeling them to be full of social value. Another topic of lively discussion was the question of establishing standards for communities through the efforts of social workers. A number of the delegates felt that standards could be worked out by the communities themselves without their seeming to be super-imposed. Such standards they point out are tentative in every case and the biggest value of community analysis is the process of arriving at a standard rather than applying a standard. Interesting in this connection was the discussion of referendum legislation for recreation by J. W. Faust of the Playground and Recreation Association of America.

Among the sociologists present was a group which took the point that the movement of population and the placing of business and industry has a great deal to do with the social conditions of any



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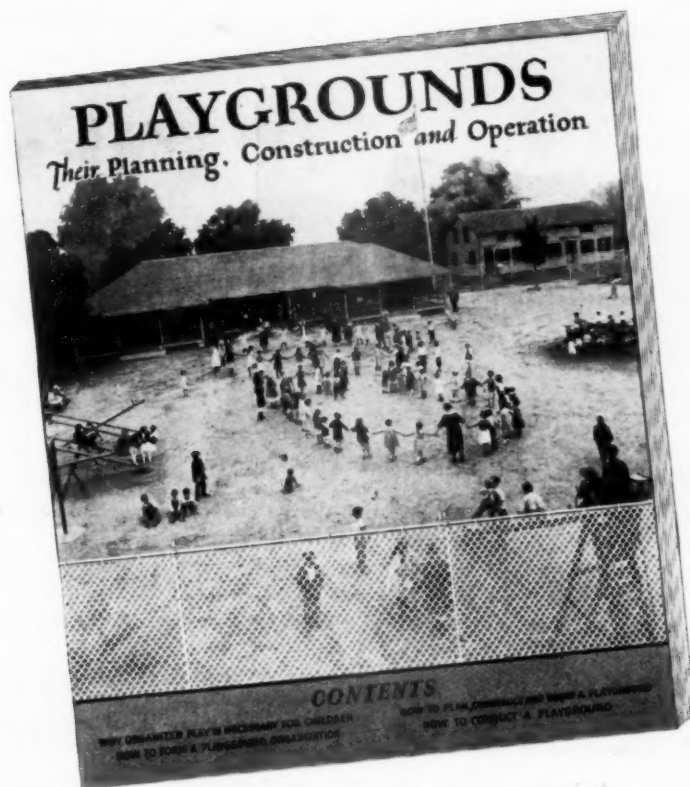
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ground. These are some of the subjects which this booklet discusses in an interesting and practical manner.

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community within the city. City planning received more attention at this conference than at any previous one.

National Amateur Athletic Federation

Consideration of the problem of amateurism vs. professionalism as it affects junior athletes eighteen years and under, the reading of reports from constituent organizations and the discussion of the program for the coming year were among the matters taken up in the meeting of the N. A. A. F. (Men's Division), held in New York on December 29th.

Over fifty directors from normal schools, colleges and physical education schools in all parts of the country attended the Leadership Training conference held December 31 to January 2 at Barnard College, New York, under the auspices of the Women's Division N. A. A. F. and the Committee on Women's Athletics of the American Physical Education Association. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways and means of introducing into the curricula of summer schools courses in the training of women officials for the administration of athletics for girls and the outlining of the content of such courses in accordance

with the ideas promoted by the Women's Division. A great deal of enthusiasm was aroused by the discussion and the representatives of a number of training schools signified their intention of introducing such courses.

On November 21, 1925, a general conference was called by Miss Helen L. Coops, Acting Director of Physical Education, University of Cincinnati, to consider outstanding problems in girls' athletics. To this conference came a group of about 200 representative delegates who took important action looking toward the development of a system of athletics for the girls of the district which will develop sportsmanship and fair play through a policy of "Athletics for All." A committee was appointed to draw definite plans of action which will influence athletic ruling and methods of administration in the State and to give such publicity to the principles of the Women's Division of the N. A. A. F. as will make them the basis of popular sentiment. Plans were directed for the formation in Ohio as soon as possible of a State High School Athletic Association.

On November 16th to 18th, 1925, the Third Annual Recreation Conference of the Western

Division of the P. R. A. A. was held at Del Monte, California. In addition to the sessions held morning and afternoon for discussion of all phases of the recreation movement, there were special luncheon and dinner sessions and fun frolics.

Magazines and Pamphlets Recently Received

Containing Articles of Interest to Recreation Workers and Officials

MAGAZINES

- The American City. December, 1925
 Palos Verdes Executes Town Plan
 Harrisburg's Park and River-Front Development
 By J. Horace McFarland
 Municipal Pageantry as a Means of Civic Education
 By Martha B. Reynolds
 Playground Development in Fresno by Bond Issues, Gifts and Bequests
 Audubon—Combined Memorial Hall, Municipal Building and Fire Department Headquarters
 The Municipality at Christmas Time
- Old Gold (University of Iowa). December, 1925
 The Popular and Historic Game of Hockey.
 By Winifred S. Clarke
 Speedball for Girls
 By Miriam W. Taylor
 Educational Value of Swimming
 By Margaret Lea
 The Need of Swimming in Public Schools
 By David A. Armbruster
- Parks and Recreation. November-December, 1925
 The Design of the Larger Municipal Park
 By Karl B. Lohmann
 Westchester County Park System Shows Rapid Progress
 By Hermann W. Merkel
 Park and Playground Design Discussed at Convention Round-Table
 Park and Playground Accidents
 By O. W. Douglas
 Detroit's Indoor Meet
 Winter
 Recreational Drama
 By Henrietta Fetzner
 Report of Recreation Committee of American Institute of Park Executives on Municipal Athletics Stadium Design
- Kindergarten and First Grade Magazine. January, 1926
 The Nursery School and the Mother
 Reading and the Spirit of Play
- The Progressive Teacher. January, 1926
 Constructive Recreation
 By Loren C. Rapier
- American Physical Education Review. November, 1925
 The College Curriculum in Physical Education for Women
 By Elizabeth Halsey
 Side Line Opinions on Intercollegiate Athletics
 By Elmer Mitchell
 Observations Concerning Social and Moral Learnings in Athletics
 By W. L. Hughes
- December, 1925
 Playground and Recreation Leadership Requirements
 By Charlotte Stewart
 Selected Bibliography of Physical Education and Hygiene
 Block Ball
- The American City. January, 1926
 City Plan Committee Aids Development of Memorial



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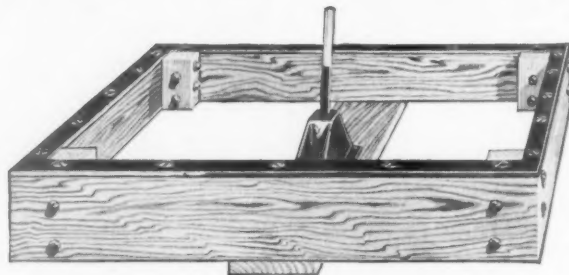
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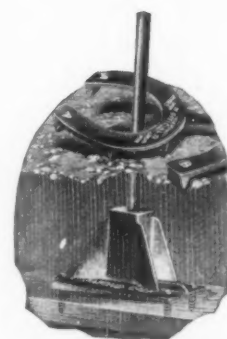
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DIAMOND STAKES AND
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- Park—El Paso, Texas
By W. E. Stockwell
State Parks Are Gaining Ground
160 Acre Tract a Gift to City
- The Survey. January 15, 1926
The Books Children Choose
- Physical Training, January, 1926.
Health and Recreational Program on the Norfolk
and Western Railroad
By C. H. Habenbuch
Business Men's Swimming Club at Wilmington
A State Championship in Sportmanship
By George O. Draper
- The Progressive Teacher. February, 1926
Constructive Recreation: The Use of Games
By Loren C. Rapier
- Mind and Body. January, 1926
Education Athletics
By Major John L. Griffith
Physical Activity as an Asset to Mental Activity
By Hubert E. Coyer
Philadelphia's Athletic Ability Test
By William A. Stecher
Model Exercises
Health for the Swimmer
Rules and Regulations for Scout-Pace Race—Logan,
Utah
Athletics and Life
- February, 1926
Physical Training in Relation to the Rest of the
School Curriculum
By Major H. J. Selby
The Passing of the Red Man (Pageant)

PAMPHLETS

- Annual Report of Community Service of Boston, Inc.,
for the Year ending March 31, 1925
Cincinnati Community Service—Annual Report, 1925
State Parks and Forests—Published by the National Conference on State Parks, Washington, D. C.
Year Book of Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club, 1925
The Forestry Primer—Published by the American Tree Association, 1214 16th St., NW., Washington, C. S.
Annual Report of the Park and Recreation Board of Columbus, Ga., 1925

Our Folks

Dean K. Gardner has recently been employed as Director of Recreation in the newly developed system in Bartow, Florida.

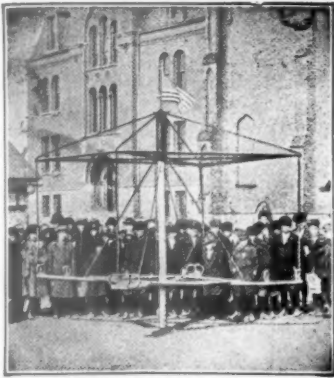
George Hjelte who has been Superintendent of Recreation in Berkeley, California, since 1921 has recently been appointed to the position of Superintendent of Recreation in Los Angeles, California, succeeding C. B. Raitt.

James McCruddan has succeeded John Cullen as Superintendent of Recreation in Yonkers, N. Y.

Miss V'lora Welch, formerly connected with the Duluth Recreation system has recently been employed as Director of Women's and Girls' Work in the new municipal recreation system in Sarasota, Florida.

Arthur Emmons has been appointed as Superintendent of Recreation in the new year round recreation system in Perth Amboy, N. J.

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Book Reviews

SURVEYING YOUR COMMUNITY—A HANDBOOK OF METHOD FOR THE RURAL CHURCH. By Edmund deS. Brunner. Published by George H. Doran Company, New York

Very detailed suggestions are offered and many schedules provided for reporting the findings of community studies in rural districts. Recreation is one of the subjects selected for a possible follow-up study because, as the writer states, "it is the subject of increasing concern to parents and of increasing importance to all social agencies including the church." It is interesting to note that the study of forty most successful town and country churches conducted by the Institute of Social and Religious Research in 1922 showed that recreational activities constituted a large part of the service program of these churches.

THE CITY. By Robert E. Park, Ernest W. Burgess and Roderick D. McKenzie. Published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Price, \$2.10

This compilation of addresses on human nature and social life under modern city conditions represents a study of urban life, its physical organization, its occupations and its cultures. The following titles are indicative of the sympathetic handling of the subjects by the authors: *The Study of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment; The Growth of the City; The Natural History of the Newspaper; Recreation and Juvenile Delinquency; The Mind of the Hobo; and Magic, Mentality, and City Life.*

In speaking of Juvenile Delinquency, Professor Park says:

"What we already know about the intimate relations between the individual and the community makes it clear that delinquency is not primarily a problem of the individual, but of the group. Any effort to re-educate and reform the delinquent individual will consist very largely in finding for him an environment, a group in which he can live, and live not merely in the physical or biological sense of the word, but live in the social and the sociological sense. That means finding a place where he can have not only free expression of his energies and native impulses, but a place where he can find a vocation and be free to formulate a plan of life which will enable him to realize in some adequate way all the fundamental wishes that, in some form or other, every individual seeks to realize, and must realize, in order to have a wholesome and reasonably happy existence.

"This suggests to me that the playground should be something more than a place for working off steam and keeping children out of mischief. It should be a place where children form permanent associations. The play group is certainly one of the most important factors in the defining of the wishes and the forming of the character of the average individual. Under conditions of urban life, where the home tends to become little more



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than a sleeping place, a dormitory, the play group is assuming an increasing importance."

OUTLINES OF CHILD STUDY. Edited by Benjamin C. Gruenberg for the Federation for Child Study. With an Introduction by Edward L. Thorndike. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, \$1.08.

These outlines are based upon the experience of a score of years in guiding the reading and discussion of groups of parents and teachers. Dr. Gruenberg says in the preface that the Federation for Child Study takes the position "that we must make deliberate and systematic effort to replace impulse with purpose in all our dealings with children." The Outlines have been worked out on the basis of actual problems brought out in study groups. A brief summary of accepted theory is given under each heading, followed by references classed as "popular," "non-technical" and "technical."

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INDEX TO VOLUME XIX

THE PLAYGROUND

APPRECIATIONS

	Month	Year	Page
Children's Friend in Kewanee, The	October	1925	386
Christy Mathewson	December	1925	517
Henry Kaufman	May	1925	84
Recreation Mayor, A	September	1925	306
Robert A. Woods	June	1925	166
Sandow the Strong Man—Eugene Sandow	December	1925	518
Tribute to a Public Spirited Citizen, A, Charles W. Garfield ..	June	1925	171
William H. Geer	May	1925	81

ATHLETICS

Athletics for Girls	September	1925	344
Athletic Program for Girls at River Falls Normal School, The	January	1926	561
Baseball Pitching Contest	August	1925	286
Big Summer in Amateur Baseball, E. W. Johnson	December	1925	522
Detroit's First Annual Men's Indoor Meet	June	1925	153
Experiment in International Athletics, An, Daniel Chase	October	1925	399
High School Athletics	August	1925	286
On Athletics for the Largest Number, Daniel Chase	July	1925	217
Some Findings Regarding Athletic Tests	September	1925	343
State "M" in Missouri, The, Henry S. Curtis, Ph.D.	October	1925	401
Twenty-Five Years Old	December	1925	517
War Without Tears	June	1925	168

BOOK REVIEWS

Americanization Questionnaire, Catherine A. Bradshaw	August	1925	292
Analysis of the Caddie Problem, Charles A. Gordon	July	1925	239
Birch Bark Roll of Woodcraft, The, Ernest Thompson Seton ..	September	1925	359
Book of American Negro Spirituals, The	December	1925	525
Book of Original Parties, A, Ethel Owen	February	1926	635
Boy and His Vacation, The John Irving Sowers	August	1925	295
Boy Guidance, Father Kilian ..	September	1925	359
California Public School Catechism, A. R. Heron	August	1925	288
Child of the Frontier, A, Elma E. Levinger	July	1925	239
Choice Rhythms for Youthful Dancers, Caroline Crawford ..	February	1926	635
Christmas Songs of Many Nations	February	1926	635
Christmas Tide, A Merry Christmas Collection of Songs and Melodies	January	1926	581
Church Music and Worship—A Program for Today, Earl E. Harper	July	1925	238
Church's Program for Young People, The, Herbert Christian Mayer	November	1925	472
City, The, Robert E. Park	March	1926	693
City Planning Procedure for Iowa Municipalities, Rolland S. Wallis	November	1925	470

	Month	Year	Page
Common Sense of Music, The, Sigmund Spaeth	September	1925	359
Community Singing and the Community Chorus, Kenneth S. Clark	April	1925	69
Constitution at a Glance, The, Hazard and Moore	September	1925	356
Contributions of Physical Education to the Ideals of Modern Democracy, J. B. Nash	October	1925	413
County Library Service, Harriet C. Long	August	1925	295
Dennison's Gala Book	July	1925	237
Devotional Plays and Folk Ways, Ethel Reed Jasspon and Beatrice Becker	July	1925	238
Dramatizing Child Health, American Child Health Association ..	July	1925	239
Educational Opportunities for Greater Boston, Prospect Union Educational Exchange ..	November	1925	470
Education Through Physical Education, Agnes Wayman	August	1925	295
Fancy's Hour, Norman Schlichter	January	1926	581
Field Days, Department of Education, Alabama	November	1925	472
Funds and Friends, Tolman Lee ..	April	1925	69
Good Times Club of America ..	September	1925	310
Great Composers 1600-1900, Paul John Weaver	September	1925	356
Guide Book for Better Homes Campaigns, Better Homes of America	January	1926	580
Gymnastics in Education, William J. Cromie	October	1925	413
Hand Book in Archery, A, California By-Products Co.	November	1925	472
Handbook of Health, Woods Hutchinson, M.D.	August	1925	293
"Handy," Prepared by the Social Recreation Union	April	1925	69
Happy Holidays, Frances G. Wickes	December	1925	525
Health and Good Citizenship, Andress and Evans	August	1925	294
Health and Success, Andress and Evans	July	1925	239
History of National Music Week, C. M. Tremaine	July	1925	238
Hockey Guide	January	1926	580
Home Maker, The, Mabel Louise Keech	September	1925	360
House that Health Built, The, East Harlem Health Center ..	January	1926	579
How Good Is your Town? Wisconsin Conference of Social Work	January	1926	579
Individual and Mass Athletics, S. C. Staley	May	1925	128
Instrumental Music in the Schools of Rochester and Louisville, Jay W. Fay	February	1926	637
Intra-Mural Athletics, Elmer D. Mitchell	May	1925	128
Jungle Rule or the Golden Rule? Homer Folks	November	1925	471
Knight of the Piney Woods, A, Arthur MacLean	February	1926	636
Knights of Caney, The	September	1925	347
List of Music for Plays and Pageants, A, Roland Holt	August	1925	294

	Month	Year	Page		Month	Year	Page
List of References on Education for Citizenship, Bureau of Education.....	August	1925	295	Problem Child in School, The, Mary B. Sayles and Howard W. Nudd	August	1925	292
Listening Child, The, Lucy W. Thacher	July	1925	237	Programs for Holidays and Special Occasions, Wilma Jeppson	August	1925	295
Make-It-Up Story Book, The Cornelia Adams	September	1925	360	Progress Report, Commonwealth Fund Program for the Prevention of Delinquency.....	January	1926	580
Manito Masks, Hartley Alexander	December	1925	525	Publications Available September 1925, Bureau of Education..	January	1926	579
Manual of Physical Education for the Public Schools of Wisconsin, State Department of Public Instruction	September	1925	360	Real Boy and the New School, The, E. A. Hamilton	November	1925	471
Manual of Play, Community Chest Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky	August	1925	293	Recent Children's Books, American Library Association	January	1926	581
May Festival Book, American Child Health Association	April	1925	70	Recreation Bulletin, Mutual Improvement Association, General Boards of M.I.A.	October	1925	413
Modern Life Programs, The, Anna Steese Richardson	November	1925	471	Religious Drama, 1924, Committee on Religious Drama, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America	September	1925	360
Municipal Aid to Music in America, Kenneth S. Clark	December	1925	524	Report of Committee on School House Planning, National Education Association	August	1925	292
Municipal Government and Activities of the City of Milwaukee for 1924, Frederick N. MacMillan	November	1925	470	Review of Official Volley Ball Rules, 1925-26	January	1926	579
Municipal Planning, Park and Art Administration in American Cities, American Civic Association	December	1925	524	Rural Planning—The Villages, U.S. Department of Agriculture	December	1925	524
National Collegiate Athletic Associations' Foot Ball Review..	December	1925	527	Safety First for Children, Benjamin Veit	September	1925	356
National Collegiate Athletic Association Track Meet and Field Rules	August	1925	293	School as the People's Club House, The, Harold O. Berg...	November	1925	472
National Dances of Ireland, Elizabeth Burchenal	June	1925	184	School Music Number, Sierra Educational News	February	1926	635
Nature Games, William G. Vinal	January	1926	581	School Theatre, The, Roy Mitchell	February	1926	637
Negro and His Songs, The, Odum and Johnson	September	1925	358	Second Book of the Gramophone Record, The, Percy A. Scholes	December	1925	524
Official Handbook in Athletics for Girls and Women, Committee on Women's Athletics, A.P.E.A.	December	1925	524	Short Plays, Selected and Edited by James Plaister Webber and Hanson Hart Webster	February	1926	637
Official Report of the Third Biennial Conference of Boy Scout Executives	July	1925	239	Singing Games and Drills for Rural Schools, Playground Numbers and Teachers, Chester Geppert Marsh	October	1925	412
Old Square Dances of America, Dunlavy and Boyd	December	1925	526	Sing-song Social, Margaretha Lerch	August	1925	295
One-Act Plays for Stage and Study	February	1926	636	Smith's Two Hundred Songs for the Ukulele, William J. Smith	November	1925	472
Organization and Programs, National Conference on Outdoor Recreation	October	1925	412	Social Aspects of Farmers' Co-operative Marketing, Benson Y. Landis	September	1925	358
Organizing, Instructing and Equipping the School Band, Martin Band Instrument Company	February	1926	635	Social Ministry in an American City, T. Earl Sullenger	August	1925	293
Osman Pasha—A Drama of New Turkey, William Jourdan Rapp	December	1925	525	Social Problems and Agencies - Henry S. Spalding	January	1926	580
Our Play House, Ella Victoria Dobbs	January	1926	581	Socialized School, The - School grounds and their Equipment, Henry S. Curtis, Ph.D.	August	1925	293
Outdoor Boy Craftsmen, A. Neely Hall	February	1926	635	Some Practical Uses of Auditoriums in the Rural Schools of Montgomery County, Alabama, Lillian Allen	July	1925	237
Outlines of Child Study, Benjamin C. Gruenberg	March	1926	693	Song Series - "Made for the Children," Alys E. Bentley....	July	1925	238
Paintings of Many Lands and Ages, Albert W. Heckman	October	1925	412	Southern Pioneers, Howard W. Odum	November	1925	471
Penny Buns and Roses, A Musical Fantasy, Wilson and Repper	October	1925	413	Spalding's Tennis Annual 1925 ..	September	1925	356
Physical Education and Hygiene, C.B. Utery and R.G. Leland...	May	1925	128	Stories of the World's Holidays, Grace Humphrey	September	1925	359
Physical Education Syllabus, Part II, Department of Education, State of Missouri	November	1925	472	Stunts of Fun and Fancy, Elizabeth Hines Hanley	November	1925	470
Piano Edition of Twice 55 Games with Music	July	1925	238	Summer Camp Entertainment, Mari R. Hofer	December	1925	526
Play Equipment for the Nursery, Neva L. Boyd	February	1926	636	Suppose We Play, Imogen Clark ..	November	1925	470
				Surveying Your Community, E. de S. Brunner	March	1926	693
				Systems of Public Welfare, Howard W. Odum and D. W. Willard	December	1925	527

	Month	Year	Page
Teaching of Industrial Arts in the Elementary School, <i>McMurry, Eggers and McMurry</i>	February	1926	636
Tenth Annual Selected Pictures Catalog, <i>National Committee for Better Films</i>	July	1925	240
Through Story Land to Health Land, <i>Esther Zucker</i>	September	1925	356
Tourist Camp, <i>Rolland S. Wallis</i>	September	1925	356
Town Forests - Their Recreational and Economic Value and How to Maintain Them, <i>Harris A. Reynolds</i>	October	1925	412
Track and Field Athletics, <i>Albert Wegener</i>	May	1925	128
Tunes and Runes for the School Room, <i>Alice C. D. Riley and Dorothy Riley Brown</i>	December	1925	525
Tyndale, A Drama, <i>Parker Hord</i>	September	1925	359
Under These Trees, <i>Grace Humphrey</i>	August	1925	293
Vacation Activities and the School, <i>Lincoln School Teachers College</i>	September	1925	358
Visiting Teacher in Rochester, The, <i>Mabel Brown Ellis</i>	January	1926	579
Visiting Teacher Movement, The, <i>J. J. Oppenheimer</i>	October	1925	412
Welfare Council of New York City, The, <i>W. Frank Persons</i>	December	1925	526
What Everyone Should Know About Charitable and Social Work in New York City, <i>Gertrude Springer</i>	December	1925	527
What Every Teacher Should Know About the Physical Condition of Her Pupils, <i>James F. Rogers, M.D.</i>	May	1925	128
What Shall We Play? <i>Edna Geister</i>	January	1926	581
What Shall We Play? <i>Estelle Cook</i>	August	1925	294
Who's Who in Music Education, <i>Edwin N. C. Barnes</i>	December	1925	526
Wisconsin Memorial Day Annual, 1925, <i>J. F. Shaw</i>	August	1925	294
Wisconsin Reading Circle Annual, 1925-1926, <i>State Reading Circle Board</i>	November	1925	471

CAMPING, HIKING AND NATURE ACTIVITIES

Dramatics in Camp	June	1925	154
Evolution of the Tourist Camp, The	August	1925	279
Finding Outdoors in the City School Room	June	1925	164
"Flower City" Campaign, A.	June	1925	170
For the Girls and Women of South Carolina, <i>Blanche Tarrant</i>	March	1926	669
How Should Hikers Dress for Comfort	July	1925	218
League of Walkers, A.	September	1925	315
Mountain Climbing	July	1925	218
Nature Activities in Winter, <i>William G. Vinal</i>	January	1926	575
Nature Study as a Form of Play, <i>William G. Vinal</i>	January	1926	558
Program Making for Girls' Camps, <i>Mrs. Edward Gulick</i>	May	1925	85
Program Making in Camps for Boys, <i>L. L. McDonald</i>	May	1925	89

CHURCH AND RECREATION

Recreation for Young People in the Church, <i>Oscar A. Kirkham</i>	August	1925	253
Recreation and the Church, <i>Reverend Ashby Jones</i>	November	1925	435
Experiment in Church Cooperation, An	August	1925	251

Month	Year	Page
-------	------	------

CITIZENSHIP

Americanization through the Art Museum	June	1925	159
International Week in Port Chester, N.Y.	December	1925	488

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS AND NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTERS

Canada's Community Halls	September	1925	331
Greenville's Phyllis Wheatley Center	September	1925	330
Modern Community House Fills Important Need in Western Lumber Camp, <i>Max Sommers</i>	September	1925	329
Neighborhood Recreation Centers, <i>Tam Deering</i>	March	1926	665
Thriving Recreation Center, A.	January	1926	569
Waverly's Community House ...	February	1926	610

CONVENTION NOTES

American Institute of Cooperation	June	1925	182
American Physical Education Association Meets in Los Angeles	September	1925	343
Annual Convention, American Institute of Park Executives ..	August	1925	290
Annual Convention, Boys' Club Federation	September	1925	348
Annual Meeting, American Olympic Association	June	1925	180
Annual Meeting, American Sociological Society	March	1926	687
Appalachian Trail Conference ...	August	1925	290
Better Films Conference	June	1925	178
Child Welfare Exposition, Belgium	September	1925	344
City Planning Conference	September	1925	349
Conference of Recreation Executives of Michigan and Ohio ...	June	1925	180
Conference on Modern Parenthood	February	1926	638
District Conference, P.R.A.A. at Houston, Texas	July	1925	232
District Conference, P.R.A.A. at Indianapolis	May	1925	124
District Conference, P.R.A.A., Southern States	May	1925	124
District Conference, P.R.A.A., Ypsilanti, Mich.	May	1925	126
Educators of Physical Educators Meet	July	1925	232
Eighth Annual Country Life Conference	February	1926	639
First International Congress on Child Welfare	November	1925	464
International Kindergarten Union Convention at Los Angeles ..	June	1925	178
Meeting of American Physical Education Association at Rochester	July	1925	234
Music Supervisor's National Convention	June	1925	178
National Amateur Athletic Federation Meets	March	1926	690
Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the P.R.A.A.	July	1925	197
Notes from the Work-Study-Play Conference of the N.E.A.	June	1925	183
Play Hour Program at National P.T.A. Convention	July	1925	219
Report of the Recreation Committee of the American Institute of Park Executives	December	1925	516
Second Annual Meeting Women's Division N.A.A.F.	September	1925	352
State Park Conference	May	1925	126

	Month	Year	Page
Thirty-Second Annual Convention International Kindergarten Union	October	1925	411
Twenty-Sixth Annual Convention of the American Institute of Park Executives	January	1926	583
United Neighborhood Houses ..	June	1925	182

DONATED PLAYGROUNDS

Donating Playgrounds as a Play Activity	September	1925	331
Playground Established by Emil Bommer, A. Helen Sedgewick Jones	October	1925	389
Generous Bequest Takes Tangible Form	September	1925	332
Two New Offers from the Harmon Foundation	June	1925	162

DRAMA

Art Education and Dramatic Expression through Children's Plays, Mrs. Hogue Stinchcomb	June	1925	159
Beatitudes, The, Joseph Lee	January	1926	572
Chester County History	February	1926	604
Drama Contests	February	1926	602
Dramatics in the Kentucky Mountains, Harriet L. Jones ..	November	1925	446
Garden Theater, The, Florence Holmes Gerke	May	1925	100
Little Country Theater and its Founder, The, Thomas E. Rivers ..	October	1925	375
Municipal Outdoor Theatre, A, Oliver Goodell Pratt	November	1925	451
Richmond's Community Fund Pageant	February	1926	624
Rural Play Contest, A	July	1925	223
Successful Venture into Drama, A	February	1926	626

GAMES

Bonarro, Jay B. Nash	June	1925	146
Bowling on the Green, Chas. G. Blake	May	1925	109
Canoe Polo, B. E. Wiggins	August	1925	263
Giant Checker Board in Vancouver, A	February	1926	633
Have you tried Field Ball?	May	1925	110
Loop-the-Loop	October	1925	387
Official Speed Ball Rules	June	1925	176
Paddle Tennis	March	1926	673
Rules for Pin Ball	March	1926	673
Soccer Versus Rugby Football ..	November	1925	468
Sprint Ball	September	1925	339
Volley Ball	February	1926	631

GOLF

Golf for Juniors, Samuel Gilbert ..	January	1926	570
Municipal Golf in Colorado Springs	August	1925	284
Municipal Golf in Indianapolis, R. Walter Jarvis	August	1925	281
Obstacle Golf	December	1925	485
Rackham Golf Course, The, Edward G. Heckel	September	1925	340

HANDCRAFT

Handcraft on the St. Paul Playgrounds, E. W. Johnson	March	1926	650
Hobbies	October	1925	402
Successful Kite Tournament, A ..	July	1925	230
Tiny Town	June	1925	167
Whittling Contests in Chicago ..	June	1925	168

HEALTH AND PLAY

Health Clinic That Prescribes Recreation, A, Weaver Pangburn	September	1925	337
Play and Health, Joseph Lee	September	1925	338

HOLIDAY AND SPECIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Christmas Plays for Young People ..	December	1925	513
May Day in the School and Playground	March	1926	677
Paterson Celebrates Christmas ..	December	1925	215
Patriot's Day	June	1925	160
Portland's Rose Festival	August	1925	258
Spreading the Christmas Spirit in 1924	November	1925	461
Suggestions for a St. Patrick's Day Program	February	1926	628
Thanksgiving Party, A, Helen Sedgewick Jones	November	1925	459

HOME RECREATION

Home Play Exhibit, A	July	1925	216
Play Rooms in Chicago's Apartment Buildings, Marie G. Merrill	August	1925	255
Wanted: A Place to Play, Clarence S. Stein	November	1925	452

LAYOUT AND EQUIPMENT OF PLAY AREAS

Equipment for general Athletics and Layout of an Athletic Field ..	February	1926	600
Home made Playground Apparatus at a Country School, Charles J. Storey	May	1925	101
Playground Surfacing	July	1925	228
What Constitutes Adequate Provision for Children's Play?	October	1925	396

LEADERSHIP

Apprentice Project, An	February	1926	609
Boyology - A New and All Important Study	March	1926	670
Community Recreation Volunteers, Mrs. Edwin W. Gearhart ..	May	1925	102
Community Recreation School, The	July	1925	221
Junior College Requires Play Course from Teachers	August	1925	257
Leaders in the Recreation Movement:			
Clark W. Hetherington	June	1925	142
Frank S. Marsh	July	1925	195
Frank E. Sutch	August	1925	250
M. Esthyr Fitzgerald	March	1926	650
Nine Points of Community Recreation Leadership	August	1925	264
Social Recreation Union	August	1925	280

MISCELLANEOUS

Boy Scouts of America, The, Helen Sedgewick Jones	January	1926	562
Can a Whistle Stop Play?	September	1925	307
Credit Schedule, A	September	1925	333
Dreams of Youth, The - Where are They?	November	1925	456
Do We Need Time Killers?	August	1925	280
Faculty Folk Dance Club, A, Fannie Freer	July	1925	224
Finding God in Beauty, Zona Gale ..	December	1925	498
"Forever Dedicated to the Public for Parks and Playgrounds" ..	August	1925	258
Getting the Child's Point of View ..	September	1925	341
Index to Volume XIX	March	1926	694
Kind of a Town We Would Like to Live in, The	May	1925	112
Life and City Planning, Joseph Lee	November	1925	455
Neighborhood Service	May	1925	108
"Our Platform"	September	1925	339
Play in Alleys and Courts	February	1926	594
National Thrift Week	January	1926	569
Playgrounds for Toddlers	January	1926	568
Recreation Vital to Social Hygiene	July	1926	217

	Month	Year	Page		Month	Year	Page
Executives' Gathering, The	November	1925	429	What Recreation Means to Charleston, South Carolina, Mrs. John C. Tiedeman	February	1926	605
Eighteen Years' Progress in Community Recreation	August	1925	265	What Recreation Means in Columbus, Georgia, Edwina Wood	February	1926	603
Focal Museums, Chauncey Hamlin	February	1926	622	What Recreation Means to Fort Worth, Marvin D. Evans	February	1926	601
Government and Community Recreation, The, F. R. McNinch	December	1925	492	RECREATION DEVELOPMENTS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
How Can Recreation Contribute to Safety?	January	1926	567	Adults Play in Omaha, Edwin Jewell	March	1926	668
Here and There at the Recreation Congress	July	1925	224	Community Nites in Knoxville . .	November	1925	463
Impressions of the Congress, Joseph Lee	December	1925	481	Dallas Has a Zoological Memory Contest, Esward Pettet	February	1926	602
Leisure Time and the South, Whitehead Kluttz	February	1926	590	Development of San Francisco's Far Flung Recreation System, The	February	1926	609
Michigan Goes by Automobile . .	September	1925	309	Division of Physical Education of Philadelphia Makes its Report	August	1925	262
More About Recreation in Great Britain, B. T. Coote	January	1926	545	El Dorado's Campaign for Recreation	July	1925	228
Motivation of Interest in Recreation and Physical Education, J. H. McCurdy, M. D.	May	1925	104	Evanston, Illinois, to the Fore . .	June	1925	163
Nature Study as a Form of Play, William G. Vinal	January	1926	558	Everyone Has a Chance to Play in Dallas	November	1925	453
Neighborhood Organization, C. E. Brewer	September	1925	324	High Spots in Lynchburg's 1925 Recreation Program	February	1926	633
Newspaper Publicity, Chas. A. Webb	February	1926	611	How the Community Idea Functions at Jackson Heights . . .	October	1925	400
Obtaining Lands for Recreation Purposes, Paul C. Lindley . . .	October	1925	373	In Sacramento	January	1926	574
Opening of the Twelfth Recreation Congress, The	December	1925	486	In Spite of the Drought	December	1925	497
Physical Education at the New Jersey State Hospital, Edith Strickland Moodie	July	1925	209	Manchester, New Hampshire, Makes its Second Annual Report	February	1926	610
Physical Education in Cities, Allen G. Ireland, M. D.	May	1925	103	Lynn's Playground Exhibition Attended by the President . . .	January	1926	573
Physical Education - Rural and City Aspects, Henry S. Curtis, Ph. D.	May	1925	106	Ninth Annual Report of Detroit .	January	1926	566
Point of View, The, Barrett Clark .	February	1926	627	Portland's 1925 Playground Fete	January	1926	574
Problems of the Community Recreation System, H. G. Rogers . .	September	1925	326	Play Day at Casselton	September	1925	333
Program Making for Girls' Camps, Mrs. Edward Gulick	May	1925	85	Recreation Developments in Dallas, Texas	May	1925	113
Program Making in Camps for Boys, L. L. McDonald	May	1925	89	Recreation Development in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Leroy W. Crowell	September	1925	379
Psychotherapeutic Value of Music, The, Willem Van de Wall .	July	1925	200	Recreation in Smith Centre, Kansas, Schuyler C. Stevens	September	1925	330
Recreation and the Individual, John Brown, Jr.	March	1926	659	Recreation Week in Houston . .	June	1925	162
Recreation for British Miners, B. T. Coote	January	1926	543	Recreation Week in Nashville, Mary Stahlman Douglas	October	1925	381
Recreation for Colored Citizens as an Aid to Character Building, G. Lake Imes	March	1926	653	Special Developments in the West Chicago Parks, William Schultz	October	1925	406
Recreation for Colored Citizens Thomas F. Parker	March	1926	651	Story of One Small Community, The	March	1926	676
Recreation for the Feeble Minded, E. R. Johnstone	July	1925	203	Telling Stories to Three Thousand People, Charlotte Stewart .	November	1925	449
Recreation Life for Girls, Nina B. Lamkin	November	1925	442	The First Year at Mount Kisco, New York	December	1925	504
Recreation Problems in Small Communities	August	1925	283	What Recreation has done for Durham, Mrs. Fielding Lewis Walker, Jr.	March	1926	672
Report of National Municipal Music Committee	January	1926	554	Worcester Reports	March	1926	5
Sand Modeling	August	1925	283	Year Book for 1924	April	1925	5
Some Impressions of the Asheville Congress, Josephine Blackstock	December	1925	483	Community Recreation Leadership in 711 Cities			5
Special Classes and Demonstrations at the Recreation Congress	December	1925	489	Officers of Recreation Commissions Boards and Associations			24
State Park Survey, Raymond H. Torrey	February	1926	621	Playground and Community Recreation Commissions for 1924			34
Swimming Pools, Wesley Bintz . .	August	1925	259	Year's Work in Mount Vernon, A	February	1926	606
Teaching Children to Fight, George E. Johnson	January	1926	536	RECREATION FACILITIES			
What My City is Doing for Recreation, Paul C. Lindley	February	1926	598	Newark's New Stadium	January	1926	561
				Swimming Pool, A	December	1925	518
				Stamford's Street Wading Pool .	September	1925	344
				Swimming Pools, Wesley Bintz . .	August	1925	259
				Use of Canals for Recreation Purposes, The	November	1925	454

	Month	Year	Page		Month	Year	Page
RECREATION FOR COLORED CITIZENS				More About Recreation in Great Britain, <i>B. T. Coote</i>			
Notable Development for the Colored Citizens of Orangeburg, South Carolina, A.	March	1926	672	New Games in England	January	1926	545
Progress of Recreation in Colored Communities, <i>E. T. Attwell</i> ..	March	1926	657	Our Holidays	August	1925	250
Recreation for Colored Citizens, <i>Thomas F. Parker</i>	March	1926	651	Playground Movement in Uruguay, <i>The, Jess T. Hopkins</i> ..	August	1925	284
Recreation for Colored Citizens as an Aid in Character Building, <i>G. Lake Imes</i>	March	1926	653	Recreation as an International Leaven, <i>Mrs. Willoughby Rodman</i>	November	1925	439
RECREATION FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS				Recreation for British Miners, <i>B. T. Coote</i>	May	1925	111
Does Your Practice Square with Your Theory? <i>John R. Shillady</i>	October	1925	384	Recreation for British Miners, <i>B. T. Coote</i>	January	1926	543
Eight-to-Twelve Boys and the Boy Ranger Idea, <i>Edward F. Reimer</i>	March	1926	679	To Provide Playing Fields for Great Britain	September	1925	311
Leisure and Labor, <i>Matthew Woll</i>	September	1925	322	RURAL AND SMALL COMMUNITY RECREATION			
Oregon Enlarges Recreation Service for Harvesters, <i>Louise F. Shields</i>	May	1925	91	Ava Wins the Prize, <i>Mary Eva Duthie</i>	November	1925	463
Recreation and the Individual, <i>John Brown, Jr.</i>	March	1926	659	Camp for Farm Girls, A.	August	1925	278
Recreation and the Labor Union.	March	1926	671	Camp for Farm Women, A.	August	1925	278
Recreation for Artists	July	1925	219	Leisure - For What? - In a Small Town.	November	1925	469
Recreation for Social Workers, <i>Bailey B. Burritt</i>	October	1925	383	Recreation Problems in Small Communities	August	1925	283
Relation of the Individual Problem Child to Recreation, <i>Claudia Wannamaker</i>	July	1925	205	Rural Community Projects	January	1926	571
Recreation on Shipboard, <i>Helen Sedgewick Jones</i>	August	1925	282	WINTER SPORTS			
RECREATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES				Carnival That Pioneered, A, <i>Josephine Blackstock</i>	March	1926	662
Bread and Play, <i>Otto T. Mallery</i> ..	January	1926	550	Snowball Contest, <i>H. P. Blair</i> .	December	1925	515
Letter from Jerusalem, A.	July	1925	216	Winter Activities of the Recreation Division, Cambridge, Massachusetts	February	1926	633
				Winter Sports	December	1925	505
				Winter Sports in a Town of Fifteen Hundred, <i>Walton E. Milliman</i>	February	1926	619



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